MIDLANDS

THE UK'S BIGGEST REGIONAL GAY LIFESTYLE MAGAZINE

ZONE

THE ESSENTIAL NIGHTLIFE + CLUBBING GUIDE

ISSUE 210 £1.80 OCTOBER 2014

INSIDE

ANTON HYSEN
EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW ABOUT BEING A GAY FOOTBALLER AND HOMOPHOBIA IN SPORT

SUSAN CALMAN
THE COMIC TALKS ABOUT BEING LADY LIKE

PRIDE IN PICTURES
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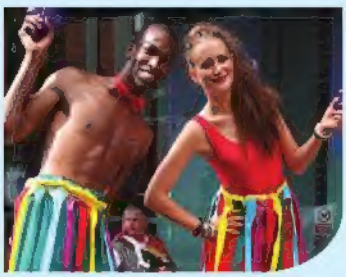

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The Editor's Note

Ryan Humphreys @ryanhumphreys

Welcome to the October issue of Midlands Zone magazine, which we hope will give you a nice warm feeling inside, even as the temperatures nosedive outside!

Homophobia in Sport

As ever, there's plenty going on in this month's edition, including an exclusive interview with gay footballer Anton Hysen. Anton hit the headlines a while back when he became the first footballer since Justin Fashanu to go public about his homosexuality. In our interview with him, he explains why he has no regrets about his decision. He also throws his weight behind Stonewall's recently launched Rainbow Laces campaign. The gay lobbying organisation joined forces with the Gay Football Supporters Network and Paddy Power to send rainbow laces to every professional club and footballer in Britain, to show support for gay players and fans.

Among the 5,000 professional footballers in the UK, not one of them is openly gay - a scenario which Stonewall states has odds of over a quadragintillion to one. Stonewall's own research shows that seven in 10 football fans have heard or witnessed homophobia on the terraces, and more than 40 per cent believe football to be an anti-gay sport. The Rainbow Laces campaign and others like it are much needed to help kick homophobia out of sport - in so doing increasing the chances that others may follow Anton Hysen's lead and become 'out and proud'.

Bisexuals have it worse

According to a new report, bisexual people have it worse in life than gays and lesbians. Commenting on the news, Ellyn Ruthstrom, president of the Bisexual Resource Center, said: "Bisexual people often face pervasive stereotypes and myths surrounding bisexuality. The fear of being stereotyped manifests itself in a real way: bisexual people are six times more likely than gay men and lesbians to be closeted. This impacts the emotional wellbeing of many bisexual people, and is a contributing factor to the community's higher rates of poor physical and mental health."

Statutory sex education in schools

A coalition of LGBTI organisations and campaigners have written an open letter to political leaders in the UK, highlighting the urgent need to make Sex & Relationship Education statutory in all schools - as well as appropriate for LGBTI young people.

In the letter, the group - including gay rights activist Peter Tatchell, Conservative Peer Lord Fowler, TV personality Dr Christian Jessen, the gay media, and LGBT and sexual health charities - outline the elevated rates of poor sexual and mental health amongst LGBT people. One in three gay men diagnosed with HIV in 2012 were in their teens or early-20s, yet 85% of gay and bisexual men receive no information about same-sex relationships in school.

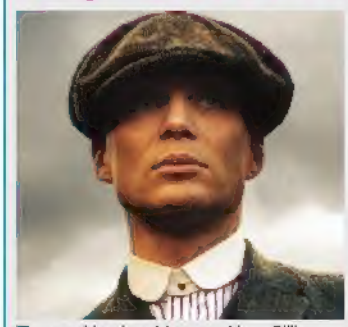
Cliff Joannou, editor of QX magazine, who devised the campaign, says: "The education system has a responsibility to prepare children and teenagers for life in the real world. It is currently failing in that duty."

Enjoy this issue, and see you in November...

Ryan x

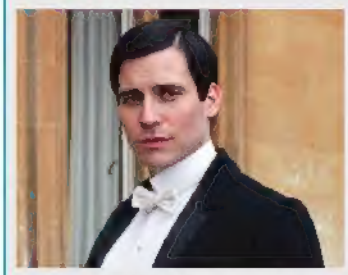
What's Hot!

Peaky Blinders is back!



The smoking hot, blue-eyed boy Cillian Murphy is back on our screens this month in the hit BBC Two British crime drama Peaky Blinders. It tells the tale of a post World War One gang in Birmingham. A must watch, if only for Cillian!

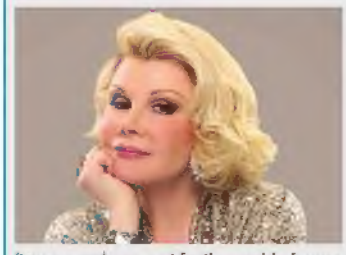
And Downton Abbey's back too!



Ok, ok.., October is shaping up to be a good month for us on the telly. We're also happy that Downton Abbey is back, and one thing that gives us a great reason to tune in is the lovely Thomas Barrow! I think we'd have been happier living back in the 1920s!

What's Not!

RIP Joan Rivers



It was a sad moment for the world of comedy and acting last month as Joan Rivers sadly departed our lives. She was a big icon and inspiration for the LGBT community across the world. We'll miss you Joan, may you make heaven a funnier place!

Someone
who's recently
got HIV is
VERY
INFECTIOUS
and won't know
That's
why I use
condoms
So if a guy tells you he is
HIV negative, he could be wrong.
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IT STARTS
WITH
ME

Sal Khalifa

Director
Trade Sexual Health, Leicester

Born: **Blackburn**
Star sign: **Aries**
Age: **38**

Each month we take a look at someone from the Midlands LGBT community. This month, our focus turns on Sal Khalifa, a director at Leicester's Trade Sexual Health.

About Sal

Where did you grow up?

I was born in Lancashire and moved to Bradford, West Yorkshire, at a young age. I spent most of my early teens in Bradford but grew up, so to speak, in Leicester, where I've been living since I was 23.

Single or attached?

I'm well and truly attached to an amazing guy called Richard. We recently celebrated our 13-year anniversary. How time flies!

What makes you happy?

It's the little things that make me happy. Spending time with Richard, lazy weekends, dinner parties with friends, lots of laughter - even if it's at my expense! I'm at my most content when I'm at home on the sofa, with Richard on his kindle, me knitting (my guilty pleasure), a Bollywood film on the screen, our wood-burner lit and a box of mint matchmakers to munch on.

What makes you sad?

My bank balance.

What makes you angry?

When I see and hear so much ignorance and hate.

If you could change one thing about yourself, what would it be?

I've been told I have OCD, which means that, whether it's work or home, every detail has to be taken care of. If I could change one thing, it would be not to have to dot every 'i' and cross every 't'. A more chilled-out approach would be a welcome change.

What's been the most embarrassing thing you've done in your life?

Blimey, there have been so many, most of which I'd never want to admit to. One of my most embarrassing moments was when I was chatting with a group of friends and the conversation turned to holidays. Somebody mentioned visiting the Northern Lights, and I very confidently said, "I've been there! I didn't realise the Blackpool Illuminations were called the Northern Lights, though!". Obviously I do know the Northern Lights are in Norway!

Coming Out

When did you first know you were gay?

I knew I was 'different' from an early age, around seven. My earliest memory was when I was nine; being attracted to boys and wanting to be around them.

When did you come out?

The youngest of six, I had a Muslim upbringing. Religion played a huge part in my coming out and how I looked at sexuality. It took me a while to accept my own identity, faith and sexuality, but once I did - with the help of the Bradford LGBT youth group and a BME group called Kali - I was able to start telling my family and friends. Responses were mixed; good and bad. So I came out in various stages and ages from the age of 18.

What was school like for you as a gay teenager?

It was horrendous. My high school years were the worst. I was a very quiet teenager, which only made things worse, as I always felt very vulnerable. I was the target of a lot of homophobia, mainly verbal, from other kids. I spent most of my time indoors, even at lunchtimes. I had no interest in studying and left school when I was sixteen without many GCSEs.

Who was the first person you told, and what was their reaction?

My sister. It took me a while to pluck up the courage; I just didn't know how to approach it. I was living with her at the time, and the day I was due to move back to my parents' home, I decided to tell her. I was really nervous and wasn't sure of her reaction. She paused and asked if I was sure, to which I replied yes. She then gave me a hug and said I was her little brother and it didn't matter who I was attracted too. I suddenly felt like a huge burden had been lifted off me. To actually tell somebody I was gay was the best feeling.

What would you say to a youngster trying to come to terms with their own sexuality?

You don't have to tell anyone you're gay, bi, lesbian or questioning your sexuality. It's a decision you have to make, and you need to think about what it means for you - whether you think that hiding it is likely to be more or less stressful than being open about it. Whatever you decide, find out what support's available.

And finally, don't feel under pressure to come out; take your time. Only you will know when you feel comfortable and ready to do it. Be who you are and do what makes you happy.

Your Career

How did you end up working in sexual health?

My motivation was my own lack of awareness of sexual health. After visiting Trade for some advice, I was surprised how little I knew. After a discussion with friends, it was shocking to find we knew nothing of STIs, HIV, safer sex. So I joined Trade as a volunteer and focused on raising awareness around sexual health within the Black and Asian community.

What challenges do you face working at Trade?

One of the major challenges is funding. It's becoming more difficult to secure funds, and with less money out there, the challenge is to make sure the LGBT community has access to Trade services. Saying that, there are innovative ways to fund projects. Trade's just started a dedicated counselling service called Approach. We've also been funded to create a South Asian LGBT support service. Thinking of new ways to engage people in campaigns is a challenge but also very rewarding. We recently ran a Big Picture campaign, which involved people pledging to take a HIV test and have their photo taken with our mobile pledge board. The campaign was a huge success. My frustration raises its head when organisations and people can't work together, instead feeling the need to compete with each other. We should all be working in partnership. We have the same goal as one another; to ensure that the health, sexual and social needs of the LGBT community are met.

What are the highlights of working for Trade?

If I was to name them all, I could write a book! Winning the NHS GEM award for partnership working with University Hospitals Leicester to create a sauna-based clinic was a real highlight. Also, working so closely with SSOTP Leicester Sexual Health Services to establish one of the only clinics at a Pride festival that provides a full sexual health screening service. We literally wrote the national handbook on how to do it. I could also mention our groundbreaking research with LGF on the sexual, social and health needs of South Asian gay and bisexual men, and the sexual health promotion project we ran with HMP Gartree and Yorkshire MESMAC.

Working with my colleagues and meeting the diverse range of people and the dedicated team of vol-

unteers, without which Trade wouldn't exist, are also amazing experiences for me. I've learned so much from them all - and I continue learning, which is great. There are so many dedicated people - like the teams at the gay venues, Leicester Pride and the LGBT communities - who support Trade, who continue to build better communities and stand up for LGBT rights. It's always good to hear feedback from people. I was recently chatting to a guy who said how thankful he was of Trade. The support we offered had helped him get back on his feet. Without it, he couldn't imagine what state he would've been in. It's comments like those that really bring home how the work we do impacts. I'm truly thankful for the opportunity to be part of a health charity that can help people and that people believe in.

Why is an organisation like Trade so important?

People often ask whether things are better for LGBT people now. The answer is yes. But despite the considerable gains in broader LGBT equality, the LGBT community and men who have sex with men (MSM) continue to experience high levels of health inequality. Trade helps communities help themselves to make improvements in their sexual, mental and physical health and wellbeing. Our key message of sex (the best sex with the least harm), love (better mental health) and life (improved health and wellbeing) is what Trade aims to achieve for all the LGBT and MSM communities in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland. Our vision is to end LGBT and MSM health inequalities for good. There's still some way to go, though, and we need everyone to work with us to get there.

What's your role at Trade?

I'm one of the directors of Trade and work closely with the other director, Veronica Nall. Our day-to-day roles are managing the charity, building partnerships, writing funding bids, working with staff to deliver a range of diverse services, and ensuring the charity meets its aims and objectives. I also get involved in the running of the Kwik Prick rapid HIV testing service and the sauna-based clinic. Before being a director, I was a project worker, so I've also delivered our core services, including community outreach, condom distribution and one-to-one support. I also manage and lead key projects such as World AIDS Day, Leicester Pride Health & Wellbeing Marquee, and any new services, such as the South Asian LGBT service. My role is varied. No two days are ever the same.

Where do you want to see Trade in five years' time?

Following a public consultation, we'll soon be moving to our new offices. We have a five-year business plan, which we'll be launching in the New Year. We'll be using our 'sex, love, life' framework to build a whole new suite of services and innovative projects for the LGBT and MSM communities. In five years' time, I want to see Trade celebrating its 20th anniversary, benefitting from stable funding, strong partnerships, and continuing to make a lasting difference to the LGBT and MSM communities.

Gay Scene

How long have you been frequenting the Midlands gay scene and what's your earliest memory?

When I first moved to Leicester, I was out all the time, mainly at the Pineapple. My earliest memory was meeting Steve and Guy, the managers of the Pineapple at the time. They took me under their wing, became my surrogate parents, looked after me and made sure I was safe. Over the years, due to work and running outreach activities on the gay scene, it became difficult to socialise. I'm not on the Leicester gay scene often; when I am, I like to visit all the bars and clubs, who do a great job and are very generous with their support.

Who's your favourite person on the gay scene?

I know this is biased, but I have to say my partner, Richard Clark. I'm always in awe of how he helped shape Leicester Pride in its earlier days. It was Richard who told me to stop complaining about the lack of services for LGBT people and instead to do something about it. Without his guidance, I wouldn't have joined the Leicester Pride committee or Trade.

What do you most enjoy about the gay scene?

That it exists. It's amazing to see a thriving gay scene with such diversity. It doesn't matter who you are or what you look like, the gay scene is for everyone. I've made many good friends on the scene who I wouldn't have met anywhere else.

What have you noticed about the way the gay scene has changed over the years?

When I first went on the scene, it was all 'shutters on the windows' and 'side entrances to bars'. It's changed dramatically. With greater LGBT equality, we're no longer hidden away. The gay scene is much more open and accessible, and that's a huge change. But we still have some distance to travel.

Time Out

What do you do to relax?

I knit. It helps me switch off - and I get a scarf at the end of it!

What do you enjoy on telly?

I enjoy watching dramas, comedies and Indian serial dramas. At the moment, I'm watching Downton Abbey, 50 Ways To Kill Your Mammy and Diya aur Bati (an Indian soap opera). I'll always watch Judge Judy when it's on, and I'm looking forward to the new series of American Horror Story. I tend to watch films more than TV.

What was the last album or track you bought?

I bought two film soundtracks; Khubsoorsat (a Bollywood film) and Guardians Of The Galaxy.

Which one website do you spend the most time on?

I spend a lot of time on youtube, looking at recipes and the array of stuff people upload. I find it quite addictive.

Which type of holiday do you prefer?

I enjoy the beach holidays, to really chill out. I also like holidays which involve sightseeing. A happy medium is my type of holiday.

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What's On
MAGAZINE GROUP
THE UK'S LARGEST REGIONAL LEISURE PUBLISHERS

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PRIDE Birmingham Pride organisers announce a £30,000 round of funding for local LGBT causes

Organisers of Birmingham Pride have announced that the first round of funding from monies raised at the 2013 festival has been distributed to seven local LGBT causes. The amount distributed is close to £30,000.

The LGBT Alcohol Support Group in Birmingham received £1,640. Birmingham's Southside BID for promoting the city district, which includes the vibrant and diverse gay village, was the recipient of £1,000.

Local charity Birmingham LGBT received the biggest grant, £8,400, to be distributed by them to smaller, local LGBT groups. Outspoken Youth Theatre Company received £8,200 towards combating sexuality prejudice through the arts. LGBT Mental Health Wolverhampton were awarded £4,700 to improve services for members of the LGBT community suffering from mental health issues. X2Y Wolverhampton received £4,596.92 to help improve services to the city's LGBT youth group. Journey Metropolitan Community Church were awarded £1,000 to help them scale up their work and achieve greater reach, and also to allow them to provide refreshments at their meetings.

Across the seven grants, over £29,500 has been awarded from the record-breaking £75,000 raised at Pride 2013.

The grants were decided by a panel comprising: Steve Ball, Birmingham Repertory Associate Director; Karen Creavin, Head of Sport & Physical Activity at Birmingham City Council; and Steve Bedser, former Birmingham City Council Cabinet Member.

Applications for the second round of funding closed at the end of September and are currently being reviewed by the panel. Meanwhile, applications are now being accepted for the third round of funding, with a deadline of Friday 30 January 2015. For more information on how to apply for a grant, visit www.birminghampride.com.

The grand total of monies raised at Birmingham Pride 2014 will be announced later this month.

POLITICS Former Sutton Coldfield MP says anti-gay law was a mistake

Former Sutton Coldfield MP and Health Minister Lord Fowler has apologised for Section 28 of the Local Government Act.

Speaking to the London Evening Standard, he said: "We've come a long way. It [Section 28] was a great mistake. I think it's now recognised as a great mistake, and I would apologise for it. It was totally misjudged."

Lord Fowler was part of the Margaret Thatcher government in the 1980s that brought in the ban, which stopped schools from promoting gay and lesbian relationships as 'a normal family relationship'. The law was eventually repealed in 2003.

Lord Fowler has recently signed a letter calling for sex education to be made statutory and suitable for both heterosexual and homosexual students.

CAMPAIGNING Leicester police unit lend their support to Rainbow Laces campaign

Leicestershire Police's Tactical Dogs and Firearms Unit (TDFU) have posted pictures of themselves to Twitter dressed in full tactical gear - with rainbow laces in their boots.

The laces have been distributed as part of the campaign to kick homophobia out of football.

The Leicester Mercury reports: 'Sgt Carl Mee, of the TDFU, said the team had been invited to take part by the force's LGBT group. Sgt Mee, who is one of the force's "straight allies" - officers who have made a commitment to support LGBT colleagues - said: "To say it's been busy on Twitter is an understatement. In the main, the comments on the picture have been positive, although there have been a couple of negative things said too. We hope we've done what we set out to do, and that's to get people talking about the issue. We're dressed head-to-toe in black, and we carry firearms. A lot of the work we do is in confrontational situations. There's a perception that we're a macho, elitist unit but that's not the case."

'And their gesture was echoed by Leicestershire Police Chief Constable Simon Cole, who also uploaded a picture of his laces to Twitter, saying: "Something for this weekend... time to lace up my boots."

'The campaign's also been backed by ex-Leicester City footballer Emile Heskey, who showed his support on Twitter. He wrote: "We can change the game. #RainbowLaces."'

CRIME Man avoids being charged over posting homophobic leaflets in Stoke-on-Trent

West Midlands Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) has decided not to charge a man who was reported to them after posting homophobic leaflets through people's doors.

A 53-year-old man was spoken to by Staffordshire Police following the door-to-door distribution of leaflets which claimed that being gay 'isn't natural'.

The police in Stoke-on-Trent compiled a case that was then handed to the Crown Prosecution Service, which decided not to take the matter further.

The leaflets, which also claimed that same-sex marriage is 'contrary to the divine law' and 'blasphemy against God', were dismissed by families, church leaders and local LGBT groups as 'vile', 'sick' and 'deeply offensive'.

A Staffordshire Police spokesman told Midlands Zone at the time: "Following this incident, Police Community Support Officers in the affected areas have updated local residents about the development, and have offered advice and reassurance. LGBT Police Liaison Officers are also working with the LGBT community to provide reassurance."

HEALTH HGL offers new sexual health clinic

Sexual health charity Healthy Gay Life (HGL) is running a new clinic from 2pm till 5pm on the last Friday of every month.

The clinic, which offers free sexual health tests for HIV, Hep B, Hep C, Gonorrhea and Chlamydia, is specifically for men who have no symptoms but want to access peace of mind, advice and information around their sexual health in a safe, supportive and confidential space. HGL will also be supplying free condoms and lube on request.

EVENT Shout Festival 2014 invites audiences to 'get caught up in the drama'

Organisers of the sixth Shout Festival of Queer Arts & Culture are inviting Midlands audiences to 'get caught up in the drama'.

The popular Birmingham event is this year taking place over the weekend of 13 to 16 November and features theatre, performances, workshops and activities throughout the city.

Commenting on the 2014 event, Neil Anderson, Steering Group Chair of Shout Festival, said: "This is Shout's sixth year and over that time we've witnessed a gradual shift around the integration of LGBT and Queer culture, as it becomes further brought into mainstream popular culture. As a result of this, the debate we always come back to at Shout is that of 'is there a need for stand-alone festival activity?'

"Our answer to that question has always been, and remains a resounding, yes! Shout enables all audiences to connect with artists addressing LGBT issues as they present themes that resonate with these audiences."

SCENE Popular Brum gay village security officer loses battle with cancer

Nightingale Club security officer Kelvin Bates has died following a brave battle with cancer.

Earlier this year at the Pride Ball, Kelvin won the title of the Midlands Zone Readers' Awards Best Venue Security Person. He also received the 2014 Lifetime LGBT Achievement Award.

In a message of condolence, the Nightingale said: 'The Nightingale club would like to take a moment to remember Kelvin Bates, who has sadly lost his battle with cancer. Kelvin will be much missed by customers and staff alike. Our thoughts and condolences are with his family and friends.'

Midlands Zone wishes to add its condolences to those of the Nightingale in this time of great sadness and loss for all those who knew and loved Kelvin.

EVENT Rainbow Jews exhibition heading to Brum

An exhibition showcasing the stories and experiences of LGBT Jewish people - and illustrating the ways in which they've helped shape British culture from the 1950s to the present day - is visiting Birmingham's LGBT Centre this month.

The Rainbow Jews exhibition visits the city on Tuesday 7 October (from 7pm) and will explore the truly diverse range of Jewish voices: Ultra-Orthodox lesbians, bisexual rabbis, gay Holocaust survivors and transgender activists.

Speakers at the event include Rabbi Margaret Jacobi and Bryan Manley Green.

For more information about the exhibition, visit the Rainbow Jews website at www.rainbowjews.com.

NATIONAL NEWS

TRAVEL LGBT couples urged to select overseas honeymoon destination carefully

The Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO) is encouraging LGBT couples to research and choose their overseas honeymoon destinations carefully.

The Daily Mail reports: 'The introduction of the government's Know Before You Go campaign comes after a survey conducted by OnePoll found that less than half (46 per cent) of LGBT people investigate whether an area is LGBT-friendly when planning a honeymoon abroad.

'The FCO hopes that this campaign will inspire couples to research their trips thoroughly before booking - ensuring that their honeymoon is the trip of a lifetime.'

SEXUALITY Bisexuals have it worse in life than gays & lesbians

Bisexual people have it worse in life than gays and lesbians, a new report has found.

Gay Star News reports: 'Even though they're estimated to make up more than half of the LGBT community, experts say they face disproportionate levels of discrimination, violence, poverty and suicide.'

"Bisexual people are vulnerable to... poor physical and mental health outcomes - often at rates higher than their lesbian and gay peers," the report states.

ART Mural in Manchester gay village

A huge mural honouring Manchester's most famous gay people has been painted in the city's gay village.

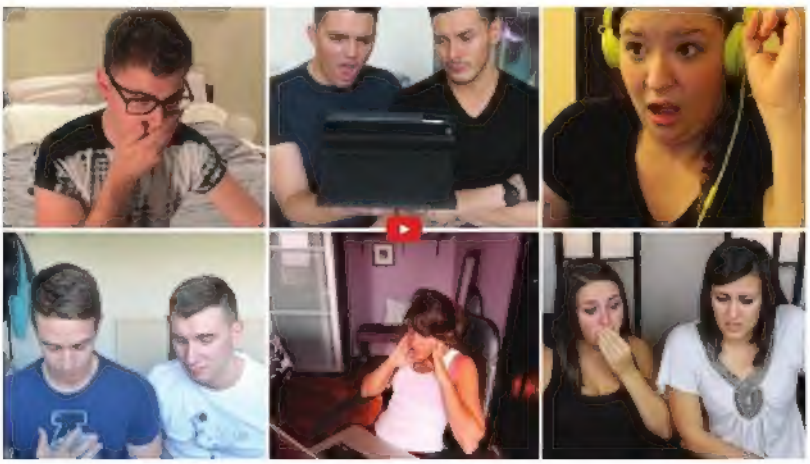
Computing pioneer Alan Turing, Suffragette Emmeline Pankhurst, fashion designer Quentin Crisp and drag queen Foo Foo Lammar are all featured. The enormous mural - 40 metres high and nine metres wide - has been painted on the side of the Molly House bar on Richmond Street.

THE VIRAL ROUND-UP

Here's what we've been looking at online...

We all do it - spend hours on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube. Often, we're distracted from what we should be doing by cat videos and funny pranks - or by something feelgood that's been shared so much on the net it's officially classed as 'viral'. Well, here are some of Midlands Zone's favourites from the past month!

WATCH THIS! The best video we've been watching this month...



Here's a touching video of a bunch of LGBT YouTubers reacting to a shocking video of a son coming out to his family, who then proceed to kick him out of the family home. It's definitely worth a look: youtu.be/Se8k0kAQmro

CHECK THIS OUT! Wedding photos that prove two grooms are better than one...

We're massive fans of some of the stuff over on Buzzfeed, so we were delighted when we stumbled across a long list of really cool photos of weddings featuring two grooms! We always love a look into other people's lives, especially their weddings!

http://bzfd.it/1uJVsel

SNAP HAPPY! Our favourite pictures from Instagram...

Still our favourite couple! Tom and Dustin!

Dan Osborne always looks best when sunbathing

Beyonce celebrates her birthday!

Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent Partnership NHS Trust

Looking to make some new friends or extend your Social Circle?

Why not come to our Gay & Bi-sexual mens group at the Piccadilly Centre. Every Wednesday evening from 19:00-21:30

Come, have a coffee meet new people and meet our team for more information call **0300 123 0970** or check out our Facebook and twitter

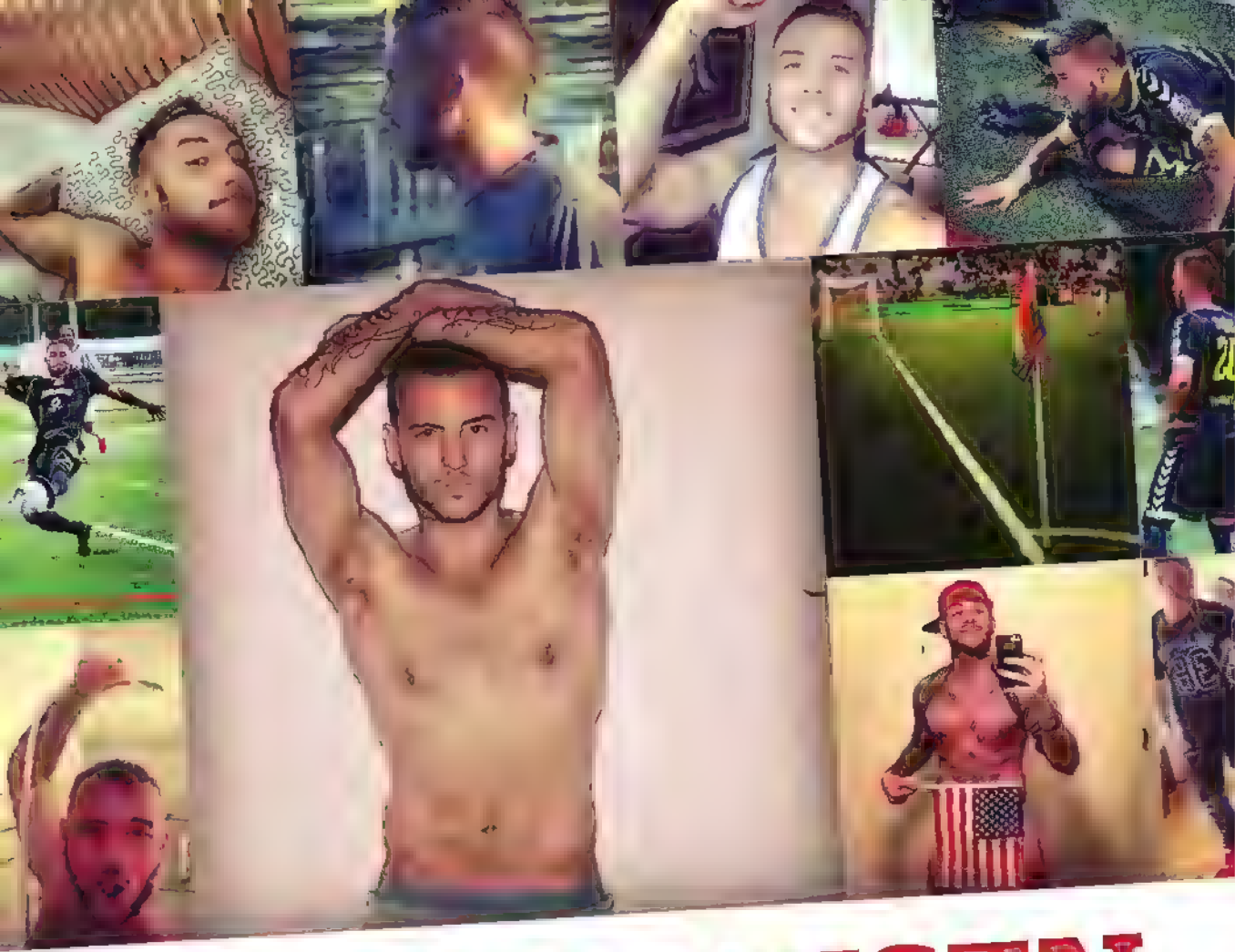
STAFFORDSHIRE AND STOKE-ON-TRENT

GayLife

STAFFORDSHIRE AND STOKE-ON-TRENT

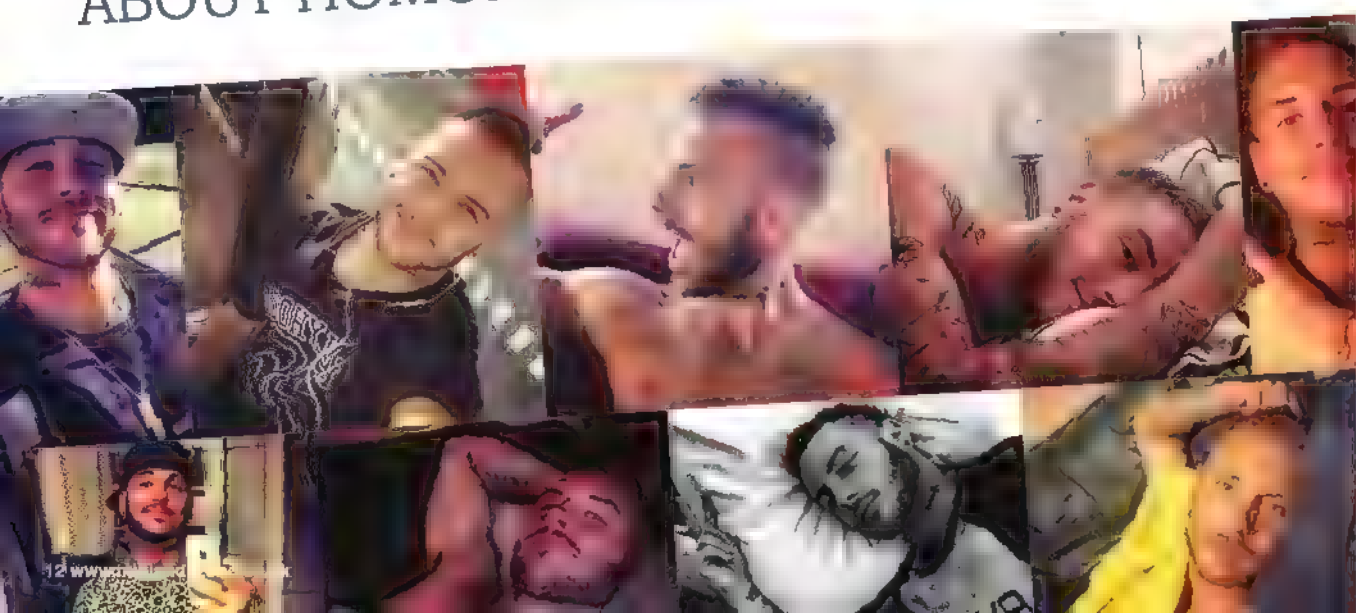
Gaylife Staffordshire-Stoke

GayLifeNStaffs



ANTON HYSEN

THE HUNKY GAY FOOTBALLER TALKS ABOUT HOMOPHOBIA IN SPORT...



Sexy 23-year-old Anton Hysen was born in the UK when his Swedish dad, Glenn, was playing for Liverpool FC. Anton, who's followed in his father's footsteps by becoming a footballer, hit the headlines a few years back by being the first player to come out since Justin Fashanu. Currently living in Sweden and playing for Myrtle Beach Mutiny in the USA, Anton is no stranger to homophobia in sport - or to talking about it. Midlands Zone Editor Ryan Humphreys caught up with Hysen to find out what it's like to be 'out' in football...

You were born in the UK, but when did you move to Sweden and why?

I moved back to Sweden when I was about three or four years old because my mum and dad had family over there. My mum really wanted to stay in Liverpool, but dad wanted to go back because he was just about to start playing football for a team in Gothenburg.

What's Sweden like as a place to live?

I like it, but I miss England a lot more. Sweden is one of the best places to live on the planet, so yes, it's great. The weather could be a little better, though!

I guess you would like to come back to England one day?

Oh yeah, absolutely. If I could do it now, I would, but there's so much more to do. I've already been to England several times – the world is a big place.

When did you first realise you were good at football?

Probably when I was about 15 or 16. I wasn't the best footballer when I was younger.

Did your Dad play a big part in developing your love of the game?

He never really pushed me into doing anything. He just said that if I knew I was good at it, I should just go and do it. So I did.

Were there any other influences?

No, not really, just a love of playing football and my dad's advice. Oh, and Liverpool FC.

Who do you aspire to be like in football?

I don't really get inspired by anyone. I love Liverpool Football Club, but I really just get motivated and inspired by myself. I just think about what I want to do and what I want to be.

What stage are you at in your football career? Who are you playing for and who do you want to play for?

I'm on the road to being a full-time professional footballer. Right now I'm playing for a team in the third league in the US, but I want to play for a team who pay me, so that I don't have to have another job to support me. I've also had a lot of injuries, but I'd love to play at the top one day.

Being gay in football is a huge deal for football players in general. When you came out, was it something you were worried about that might affect your future career?

No, not really. If it was going to ruin stuff for me, then it's not my problem; it's everyone else's problem. If you know how to perform on the pitch, it shouldn't really matter. I didn't really expect it to be a problem. Sometimes it is, but I don't really care.

When you came out, what was the reaction like?

Well, the people around me in my personal life didn't care. The only thing that really blew up was the media. That's the biggest thing, but not everyone thinks it's such a big deal as they once did.

Were you advised not to come out in case it hurt your career?

No. Everyone just advised me to be ready for a lot of people asking me about being gay. Friends and family guessed it was going to be big. I thought, "If it's going to be a problem for me to play football, then everyone can just fuck right off." It's about what you do on the pitch, not who you sleep with.

When you did come out, you were hailed as a bit of a hero. Were you surprised about all the attention you received?

Absolutely. I didn't know it was going to be such a big deal, but I was happy at the same time – it obviously was a good thing.

> **"If it's going to be a problem for me to play football then everyone can just fuck right off. It's about what you do on the pitch, not who you sleep with"**

Before you, the only other person to come out in football was most famously Justin Fashanu. Did his experience scare you away at all?

I'd heard a little bit about him before, but I hadn't heard the whole story, so no, it didn't put me off. People do suffer consequences and there are problems in the world, but it didn't really scare me.

What advice would you give to other gay footballers who want to come out and are worried about it affecting their career?

Not everyone is that strong mentally, and not everyone wants to come out, but for the ones who do, they need to be aware that there are other countries that have different cultures or have a different way of seeing 'being gay'. So there are places where they might not be welcome to play. Otherwise, I'd say just stick to being yourself. At the end of the day, all that matters is what you do on the pitch, not who you sleep with. If you want to come out, just stand up for yourself and don't let it get to you.

Do your teammates support you?

Yeah, everyone's been super-supportive, but at the same time they've said: "Let's not make this a big deal, let's just keep on moving the same way as we did before", which is a great thing.

Stonewall is currently running a campaign in the UK called Rainbow Laces, which is raising awareness of homophobia in sport by encouraging people to wear rainbow shoelaces. Do you think it will help change the attitudes of both players and fans?

Yes, I have a few of the laces myself. I think they should keep doing it, because I see homophobic comments online or hear homophobic chants at matches, so it's important to keep sending the message that anti-gay behaviour isn't acceptable. I think it's really great – and especially that the campaign's happening in the UK, which is pretty much the biggest place on earth to play football.

Have you ever experienced any homophobia whilst at playing football?

I've heard words and stuff like that, but it doesn't really get to me. There's not really that much homophobia here; Sweden's a good place. Even if I did hear something, I'd laugh at it, because it would just be trying to get me down, and I don't have time for that.

Where would you like to see yourself in five years time?

If I don't have any more injuries, I'd like to see myself playing football at a good level. I couldn't say which team or which league, but just a better league than I'm playing in right now. I've had some trouble with injuries, so I'm just happy if I get a little bit further than where I am now.

Lastly, what type of man do you go for?

Oh shit, that's such a hard question. To be fair it's always that thing where you have your ideal man but it's never going to be perfect; so just a man who likes football, I guess.

Find out more about Stonewall's Rainbow Laces campaign at www.stonewall.org.uk

dszone.co.uk

She's petite, Glaswegian, she likes cats and she's a lesbian. All that aside, Susan Calman is heading out on the road with her first full touring show, Lady Like. The show promises to reassure you, make you feel better about your own life and let you find out what being lady-like really means. Midlands Zone caught up with her to find out more about the tour which hits the Midlands this month...

Are you ready to hit the road with your first full touring show, Susan?

I guess so. Because I live in Glasgow, travelling is a large part of the job. For this tour I'll have my laptop and my box sets. Whenever I travel, I take two things with me. One is a very expensive shower gel, so that when I'm staying in rubbish hotels I can still pretend that I'm not. And I take proper coffee with me, too, for a nice cup in the morning."

Is life on the road all about DVD-watching and coffee-drinking, then?

My sitcom, Sisters, was recently commissioned by Radio Four, so I'll get into writing that. It'll be a bit lonely, I suppose, but some of the dates on the tour are already sold out and people are getting excited about it. And I'm really excited about it too.

Your show's a two-parter, isn't it?

The first bit is really about getting to know me, so you have a better idea of who I actually am. It's basically an introduction, so everyone hopefully relaxes and there are no surprises. It'll be a nice, relaxing 45 minutes. Then people can have a drink and come back for the second half, which is my new show, Lady Like. It should be a proper night of good old-fashioned entertainment.

I've seen Lady Like described as a show that's about trying to enjoy the company and personality of one particular person - yourself. There's a real joyfulness that runs through the show, from the romantic gesture gone awry in Paris to trying to realise your dreams of being a ballerina. And there's a hilarious TV escapade in Iceland with former England cricketer Phil Tufnell...

This show is saying you can learn to like yourself more. People can look at me and know that I've had a difficult time but that I'm still here, standing on stage. As comedians, we all know how badly affected we can be by a bad review, but it's all about positivity - and I like to be positive. In terms of the more difficult stuff, you hold back a little bit. There's a fine line between pity and laughter, and I don't want people to feel sorry for me. There's so much negativity around these days. People are keen to tell you in 140 characters just how much they think you're rubbish. I think Twitter is an amazing, amazing thing, but it can turn you on a pin, from happiness to despair. Anything you say can be dissected. It was bad enough when I was growing up, wondering whether I was good enough - never mind now. People just want a rise out of you, but you can block them and move on."

The mean spirits which abound on the internet do seem to land on rather odd targets sometimes. Anyone who's seen you on compering duties will know you're a funny, generous and self-deprecating person without a savage bone in your body...

Fundamentally, you want people to leave feeling better than they did when they came in; for me, that's the ultimate goal. Compering can be a gentle thing. A lot of people are frightened of comedy, because they've seen a compere who's really gone for someone in the audience, or who's been particularly acerbic or rude. If I ask a question, it's just that I want to know an answer - such as if I'm in a city that I don't know much about, for example. Comedy is a conversation in every way, and hopefully you get a response.

Your obvious talents in the MC field won you the title of best compere at the 2012 Chortle Awards, but is your career heading off in a different direction now?

I've stopped doing compering because I felt it was important to work on a new show. I still love chatting to people - no question about that, but I have literally no club gigs in my diary now. Jeremy Hardy told me that it's better to do a show of your own that four people turn up to than destroy your soul with a club gig at the weekend that you're not enjoying. And he's right."

> My heroes were The Young Ones and French & Saunders. And I really loved Joyce Grenfell and the Carry On films.

That said, if you'd spent lots of time playing to small audiences of four, you surely might have regretted taking the plunge into stand-up comedy? After all, you had a successful job and healthy wage packet in corporate law, didn't you? It must've felt like an incredible risk to give that all up for the sound of laughter?

That was the one bold decision I've made in my life. I still don't really quite know why did it. I wasn't very confident with people when growing up, and I'm quite set in my ways. I'm very risk-averse, anything that seems a little bit risky. I don't really want to do. Apart from giving up my job.

It didn't take too long for your new career to head in an upwards direction. You reached the semi-finals of both the BBC New Comedy Awards and So You Think You're Funny?, and you were a finalist in the Funny Women competition. You've also gradually become a regular voice on radio through The News Quiz and The Unbelievable Truth, and TV's come knocking too, with appearances on Dead Boss and Fresh Meat. So you're successful and in demand - but have you become the type of comedian you wanted to be?

I think so, yes. I'd never seen live comedy before I did my own first gig. My heroes were The Young Ones and French & Saunders. And I really loved Joyce Grenfell and the Carry On films. I know An Audience With Victoria Wood entirely off by heart! That was the kind of stuff I wanted to do; to tell stories. The Edinburgh Fringe really teaches you what kind of comedian you are and, more importantly, what kind of comedian you're not. I'm not a one-liner comic and never will be. At the end of a show, I think audiences perhaps like to know a little bit more about the person who's been standing on stage, and that's the kind of comedy I like to do."

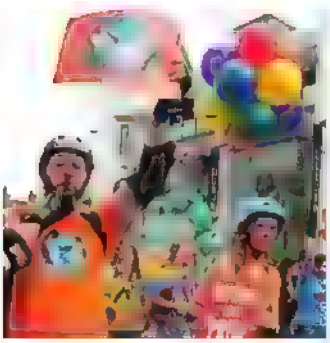
You can catch Susan's show at mac, Birmingham on Sat 5 Oct, Y Theatre, Leicester on Sat 11 Oct, Warwick Arts Centre Studio, Warwick on Sun 19 Oct and Artrix, Bromsgrove on Thurs 4 Dec.

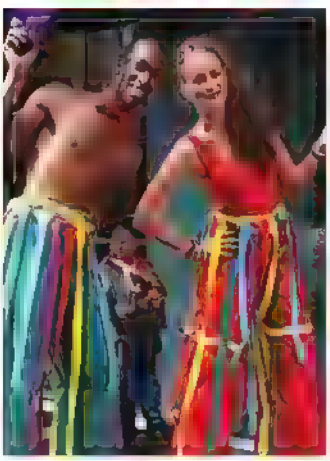
Leicester Pride makes the city's gay community PROUD!

Last month saw thousands of people from Leicester's LGBT community (and their friends, of course) turn out for the city's annual Pride parade and festival.

A beautifully bright parade launched the action, snaking its way through the city's streets and arriving at Victoria Park where an entertaining festival took place.

There was music, DJs, cabaret and more to be enjoyed by all





SOME
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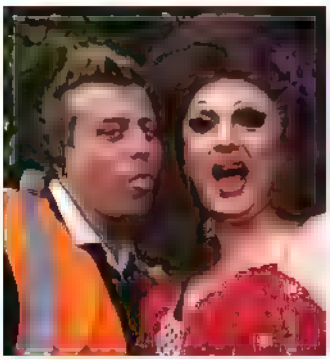
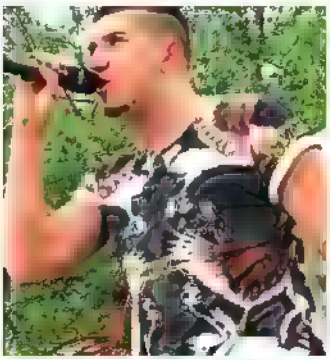


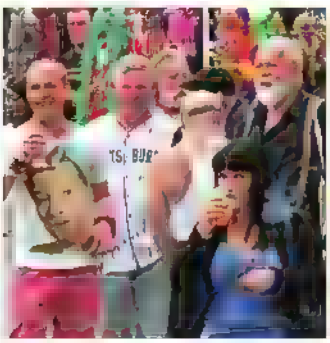
Hundreds of people attend new Pride event, **Out Derby**

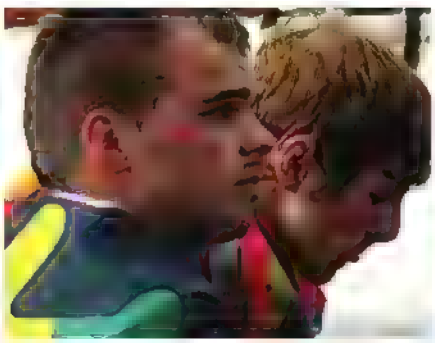
Out Derby, the city's new one-day Pride event, made a strong debut last month when it attracted over 400 people.

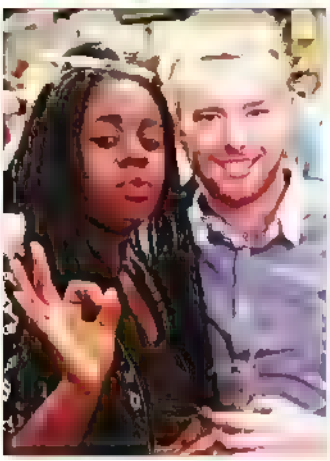
As well as celebrating LGBT life, history, health and wellbeing, the festival also hosted plenty of live music, with 90s star Angie Brown headlining.

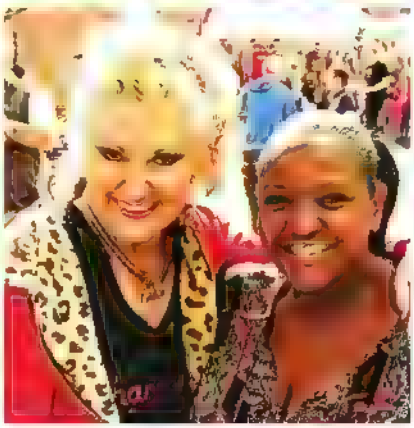
The day-long event attracted a good mix of people, with the young, the not-so-young and family groups all in attendance











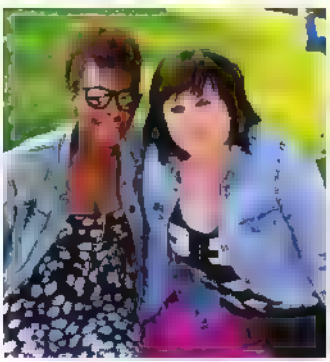
Pictures by Fox & Squirrel Photography

Sausage rolls and samies at Birmingham's **Pink Picnic**

The sun was shining on Birmingham's annual Pink Picnic in Kings Heath Park last month.

The event saw lots of people from the city s LGBT community relaxing with friends family and a great selection of food!

The free-to-attend picnic was organised by local charity Birmingham LGBT We look forward to packing our hamper for next year's event



Pictures by Laura Byrne & Nick Hynan

THE LATEST & GREATEST GADGETS & TECH

We at Midlands Zone love, love, love technology, so here are our top picks for this month. From wearable technology and mobile phones to robot vacuum cleaners, we're sure you'll love our selections...

01

01 Apple Watch

The new watch from Apple has been eagerly anticipated for years, and now it's finally here. The watch comes in three different editions - a stainless steel 'everyday' design, a sporty aluminium design and an 18-carat gold selection. The watch displays notifications from your favourite apps meaning you can leave your phone safely tucked away. The Apple Watch will help you manage your health and fitness, so it's great for those who love keeping in shape. Oh, and it'll tell you the time too! Available in 2015.

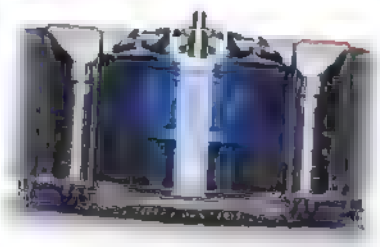
TBC
www.apple.com/uk

02 Apple iPhone 6 & 6+

The latest iteration of the hugely popular iPhone has arrived, and it's bigger than ever before. And with two screen sizes (4.7 inches and 5.5 inches), it isn't just bigger, it's also thinner and features a stunning Retina HD display. It's faster, has an amazingly powerful camera and now features the fantastic iOS 8 operating system.

From FREE
www.carphonewarehouse.co.uk

03



03 Dyson 360 Eye

The new Dyson 360 Eye robot vacuum cleaner will revolutionise the way you clean your home. The 360 Eye constantly observes and interprets its surroundings with a panoramic lens. The continuous tank-tracks ensure that the device can manoeuvre over all types of floors. With powerful suction and automatic cleaning schedules (even when you're not home), you probably won't have to think about doing the vacuuming ever again, leaving you free to do more of the things you enjoy - like reading Midlands Zone.

TBC
www.dyson.com

04

04 Sony Xperia Z3

The Sony Xperia Z3 takes all the best bits from the Z2 and makes them better. Featuring a redesigned body that's smaller, thinner and lighter plus new features, it's Sony's best phone yet. If you're a PlayStation fan, then this is the phone for you. You'll be able to stream the games directly to your phone's screen, allowing you to play them wherever you want. The 5.2" screen lets you watch video with clarity, and the new camera allows you to shoot 4K videos as well as take stunning photos. Oh, and did we mention it's waterproof?

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COMING OUT STORIES

who wants ya? WE DO

Birmingham LGBT is seeking participants willing to share their 'Coming Out Stories' as part of our Heritage Lottery funded project. This exciting creative research project will explore what happens when people "come out of the closet" and the differences between coming out today and what it was like to "come out" in the recent past.

Older or younger, your stories will add to the rich fabric of Birmingham's LGBT heritage. We will be collecting audio oral histories and looking for community members who are willing to be filmed. We are looking for a diversity of voices and stories; the only ask is that participants have lived or worked in the Birmingham area, even if not currently resident.

Want to know more?

Contact

sarahblackstock@bigbt.org

www.bigbt.org

0121 643 0821

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Look fit in Knit this Autumn

Summer's gone, autumn's here, the nights are drawing in and the temperature's dropping. Yep, it's time to get your knit on, wrap up warm and look stylish...

01 Dark Grey Cable Knit Jumper

nvest in the winter essentials with this dark grey cable-knit jumper. Featuring contrast black trims and crew neck.

£35.00
www.riverisland.com

02 Purl-knit Jumper

Long-sleeved purl-knit jumper in marled cotton yarn, with roll edges at the cuffs and hem.

£19 99
www.hm.com

03 Jack Wills Galesheath Jumper with Block Colour

Chunky knitted fabric with colour block, crew neck and full length sleeves. Also featuring ribbed trims and a regular fit - true to size.

£89.50
www.asos.com

04 Dark Blue Crew Neck Tuck Stitch Jumper

Team this classic dark blue knit with navy chinos and desert boots for effortless style this season. Simple long sleeves, a classic crew neck and a tuck stitch knit offer a slim fit

£17 99
www.newlook.com

05 Ecru Double Breasted Cable Knit Cardigan

Wrap up in style this winter in this timeless double breasted cable-knit cardigan. Featuring button fastenings, collar and plain, textured back

£45.00
www.riverisland.com

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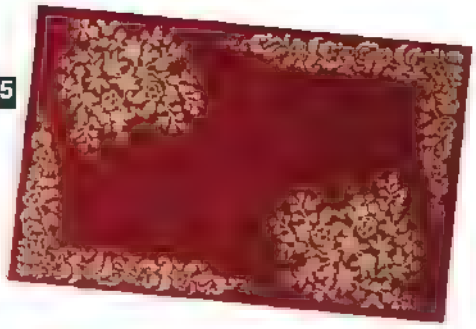
01

02

REDESIGN YOUR HOME

03

04



05

06

01 Manzana Sofa
Gorgeous family cuddle sofa - or use it all on your own to stretch out and relax. Comes complete with two large back cushions, two side cushions, two butterfly headrests and one lumbar cushion.
£1,495.00
www.darlingsofchesea.co.uk

02 Fibreglass Red Sqaure Planters
These top quality fibreglass planters have a special gel coat making them very hard wearing. This commercial finish means the colour runs all the way through the 2mm thick gel finish
£89.95 www.primrose.co.uk

03 Servis Red Washer/Dryer
A rated energy efficiency, 9kg washing and 6kg drying capacity. A 3D load sensor indicates if there's room in the machine for more clothes and adjusts water use and washing times when you don't have enough laundry **£549.99**
www.argos.co.uk

04 Retro fridge freezer in Chilli Red
A colourful range of 1950s fridge freezers, to celebrate the UK's love affair with retro styling in the home. Bringing a splash of fun and colour into the kitchen.
£799.99
www.argos.co.uk

05 New Ganges Collection Red Ruga
100% wool and hand-knotted in India, this new collection is available in two sizes.
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3.66m x 2.74m
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www.fritthrugs.co.uk

06 Red Glass Framed Mirror
Complete with fixings, this mirror can be hung in the landscape or portrait position. Overall measurement, including frame. 42" x 26" (3ft 6" x 2ft 2" or 107cm x 66cm) Also available with a black/blue/white glass frame. **£149.00**
www.ayersandgraces.com

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WIN! Tickets to The Full Monty

We're not gonna lie, we love it when they take their kits off - so you can imagine how delighted we were when we found out The Full Monty was coming to Wolverhampton! Oh, and we've got a pair of tickets to give away for the show!

Sheffield Theatres is the company behind this latest stage version of one of the most successful British movies of all time, telling the story of six unemployed steel workers who decide to get their kits off to earn some much-needed cash. Featuring songs from the film by Donna Summer, Rod Stewart, Hot Chocolate and Tom Jones, The Full Monty shows at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre from Mon 24 to Sat 29 November. We've joined with the theatre to offer readers the chance to win one of three pairs of tickets to the opening-night performance (starts 7.30pm). Answer this question to enter:

Which Robert starred in the film version of The Full Monty?

A) Robert Carlyle
B) Robert Coltrane
C) Robert Redford

Competition closes on 7 November and the winner will be notified by email

WIN! Tickets to Thriller Live

A concert celebrating the career of the late Michael Jackson, Thriller Live features a West End cast of performers, specially created horeography - and more hits than Michael probably had cosmetic procedures!

The show includes performances of I Want You Back, I'll Be There, Show You The Way To Go, Can You Feel It, Rock With You, She's Out Of My Life, Thriller, Beat It, Billie Jean and Earth Song.

Thriller Live shows at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre from Tues 11 to Sat 15 November. We've joined with the theatre to offer readers the chance to win a pair of tickets to the opening-night performance (starts 7.30pm). Answer this question to enter:

Michael Jackson starred as the Scarecrow in which 1978 film?

A) The Wizard Of Oz
B) The Wiz
C) Return To Oz

Competition closes on 31 October and the winner will be notified by email

WIN! Tickets to Judas Kiss

In 1895, as a consequence of his relationship with Lord Alfred Douglas, the legendary playwright Oscar Wilde is in danger of imprisonment for 'acts of gross indecency'. He must decide whether to stay in London and accept the risk of jail, or flee the country.

Two years later, Wilde is in exile in Italy, where another decision is made which affects the whole of his remaining life.

Judas Kiss shows at the Crescent Theatre in Birmingham from Sat 22 to Sat 29 November. We've snagged 10 pairs of tickets to give away. Answer this question to enter:

Oscar Wilde was best known for his?

A) As a playwright
B) Looking like Stephen Fry
C) For his big nose

Competition closes on 12 November

Visit www.midlandszone.co.uk to enter!

SCENE

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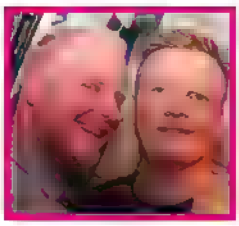
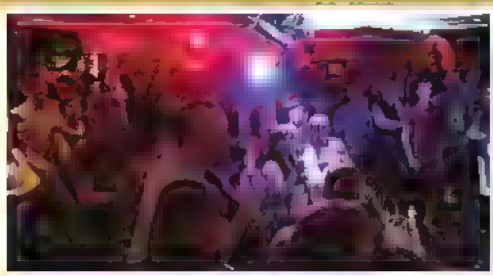
It's a Fabulous night out at **C:21**!

Monday nights out in Shrewsbury are a big affair, with great drinks offers bringing in the crowds

Pop down to C:21 bar & nightclub for Fabulous, a night boasting great music and a fantastic atmosphere. And if you pop down on the first Monday of the month, they'll even treat you to live cabaret featuring some of the finest acts on the circuit!



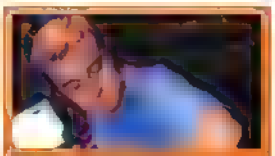


THE DRAG WITH NO NAME

If there's one night at C:21 punters love to attend, it's cabaret night! The first Monday of the month sees the weekly gay club night bring top-notch live entertainment to the venue for everybody to enjoy. This month's main attraction is none other than the ruddy fantastic Drag With No Name (Monday 6 October). Hailing all the way from Brighton, she'll have you in fits of laughter with her very own parodies of some of your favourite songs!

2 FOR 1 COCKTAILS Sunday to Friday All day & night Wind down after work with a cocktail or two
THE LOFT LOUNGE

2 FOR £10 Monday to Friday 12 6pm. Delicious new menu.
SIDEWALK



MINISTRY OF POUND

It's a good night out on a Monday in Birmingham's gay village, so pop down to Missing for drinks from £1 and great music blasting from the speakers, mixed wonderfully by DJ Mike Emery.

MINISTRY OF POUND with DJ Mike Emery from 9pm, Selected drinks £1 Open until 2am

PLAY YOUR CARDS RIGHT WITH **MRS MILLS**

Higher? Lower? That's the tricky decision you have to make every Monday at The Village Inn, as Mrs Mills and DJ Craig bring you their hilarious version of Play Your Cards Right. Pop in and have a go!
THE VILLAGE INN - BIRMINGHAM

PLAY YOUR CARDS RIGHT with Mrs Mills and DJ Deano Cash prizes and free drinks Happy Hour 12noon-10pm
THE VILLAGE INN

POUNDED Come and get Pounded from 6pm onwards. £1 on selected spirits, £1.50 Jagerbomb / Carling / Strongbow Sambucca
SIDEWALK

GET **POUNDED** AT SIDEWALK

Birmingham's popular Sidewalk bar on Hurst Street brings you Pounded each and every Monday. From 6pm onwards, you can get your hands on drinks from £1. Spirits, beer, bottles - you name it, it's on offer!
SIDEWALK - BIRMINGHAM

SUGAR RUSH £2 entry drinks from £2 various DJs
NIGHTINGALE CLUB

MONDAY MADNESS Weekly dri
BAR JESTER

OUTSKIRTS
EQUATOR BAR

FABULOUS - *Mon 6 Oct* - Cabaret with The Drag With No Name Drinks from just £1
C:21, SHREWSBURY

CHILL NIGHT with Karaok
THREE FURNACES, TELFORD

CHILL OUT NIGHT with Free Pool
HART, WOLVERHAMPTON

THE MONDAY CLUB
Shots £1, with DJ Lee E
GORGEOUS WOLVERHAMPTON

STUDENT NIGHT Free adm
PINK, STOKE ON TRENT

2 TILL 2 Open from 2pm till 2a
THE BOSTON, NORTHAMPTON

DISCO 7pm-midnig
NEW FORESTERS, NOTTINGHAM

TUESDAY (7) 14 21 28 OCTOBER

'90s NIGHT

The '90s was a good decade. It gave us the Spice Girls, Take That and many more great artists we all know and love. Then there were TV shows like The Simpsons and Friends. Quite possibly, it was one of the best decades EVER. That's why the team at The Nightingale in Birmingham are hosting a '90s Night every Tuesday, from 10.30pm through till 3am. So pop down and celebrate the era most of you were probably born in!

90'S NIGHT - Every Tuesday night 10.30pm-3am
NIGHTINGALE CLUB

2 FOR 1 COCKTAILS - Sunday to Friday. All day & night. Wind down after work with a cocktail or two
THE LOFT LOUNGE

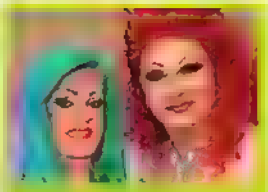
2 FOR £10 Monday to Friday 12 6pm. Delicious new menu
SIDEWALK

MIS-SING KARAOKE With your host James. Party starts at 9pm t late
[illegible]

TWO MEALS FOR £10 AT SIDEWALK

If you're looking for a meal before your night out, then look no further than Sidewalk in Birmingham. They have a cracking 'two meals for a tenner' menu - great for you and a mate to enjoy before you pop out on the beer!
SIDEWALK - BIRMINGHAM

TACKY TUESDAYS with Charlotte and Miss Penny. Songs, Games & Prizes. Happy Hour 12noon-10pm
THE VILLAGE INN



TACKY TUESDAYS

The Village Inn hosts Tacky Tuesdays every, er, Tuesday, with Charlotte The Harlotte and Miss Penny. Expect fun galore as the pair bring you a great selection of entertainment. Pop down to win some great prizes!

TUNE UP TUESDAY Fun & G[illegible]
BAR JESTER

CAMP QUIZ With free buffet [illegible]
THREE FURNACES, TELFORD

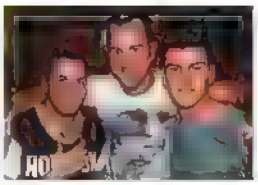
DIVERSITY Week[illegible]
VELVET, WORCESTER

FLAUNT A[illegible]
BREWERY TAP, WORCESTER

MISS DOLLY MIXTURES P[illegible]
THE WHITE HART, WOLVERHAMPTON

STUDENT PARTY Join DJ Mike [illegible]'s biggest T[illegible]
THE LION BAR & CLUB, WALSALL

2 TILL 2 Open from 2[illegible]



THE BOSTON, NORTHAMPTON

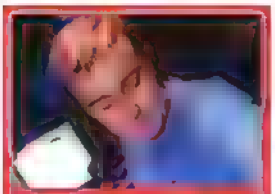
CHILL OUT NIGHT Free Pool 6pm
[illegible]
DOVER CASTLE, LEICESTER

WEDNESDAY (1) 8 15 22 29 OCTOBER

BIRMINGHAM

2 FOR 1 COCKTAILS Shake your tail feathers at Sidewalks new 2 for 1 cocktail menu
SIDEWALK

2 FOR 1 COCKTAILS - Sunday to Friday. All day & night. Wind down after work with a cocktail or two
THE LOFT LOUNGE



2 GOOD 2 MISS [illegible]
It may only be the middle of the week, but that's no reason to stay in! Pop down to Birmingham's gay village for a night out at Missing Bar and a spot of clubbing with DJ Mike Emery.
[illegible]

2 GOOD 2 MISS Drinks from just £2 with DJ Mike Emery
MISSING BAR

FREE POOL AT BRUM'S FOX BAR

If you want a chilled-out evening with your mates, be sure to head down to The Fox in Birmingham. It's here that Andy and the team let you play pool for free - so bring along a gaggle of pals and set up a mini-tournament!
THE FOX - BIRMINGHAM

C FACTOR - *Wed 1 Oct* - Launch night of the New C Factor with Charlotte the Harlotte
THE VILLAGE INN

BARRY'S BEARS AND FREE POOL Free Pool. Open 7 11[illegible]
THE FOX

WACKY WEDNESDAYS [illegible]
BAR JESTER

WEDNESDAY LINE Line D[illegible]
THE WELLINGTON

WEST MIDLANDS

KY KELLY
THE WHITE HART, [illegible]

STUDENT CLUB NIGHT

[illegible] 1a[illegible]
THREE FURNACES, TELFORD

EAST MIDLANDS

GAMES NIGHT Free Pool 1p[illegible]
NEW FORESTERS, NOTTINGHAM

KARAOKE 9pm til 3a[illegible]

[illegible] 8pm til 11pm F[illegible] E[illegible]
THE BOSTON, NORTHAMPTON

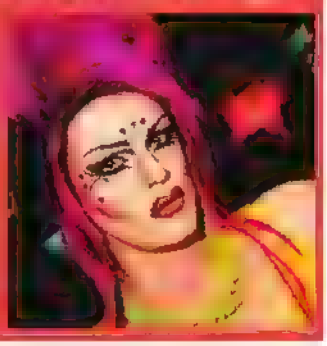
OUT Everyone's Ou[illegible] £1 drinks [illegible]
NG1, NOTTINGHAM

EVERYONE'S OUT AT NG1 IN NOTTINGHAM!

If you're out in Nottingham, head to NG1 for a night of £1 drinks until 5am! BOOM!
NG1 - NOTTINGHAM

THE C FACTOR makes a welcome return to The Village

If you think you've got a singing voice to rival Beyonce, Ellie Goulding or Gary Barlow, then pop along to Birmingham's Village Inn and show it off to Charlotte The Harlotte, as The C Factor returns on Wed 1 October. Whilst you may not walk away with a multi-million pound recording contract with Simon Cowell, you could well bag yourself some cash and the chance to win a spot at Pride!



Go and get POUNDED with your mates in Birmingham

Thursday evenings are one of the best times of the week to head down to Birmingham's gay village, as it's the night when all the students come out to play! One of the most popular Thursday venues is The Nightingale. With great music, great drinks from £1 and just £5 entry, a Thursday at the Gale is a great night for sure!

BIRMINGHAM

2 FOR 1 COCKTAILS - Sunday to Friday. All day & night. Wind down after work with a cocktail or two
THE LOFT LOUNGE

2 FOR £10 Monday to Friday 12 6pm. Delicious new menu.
SIDEWALK

I ♥ THE 90S with DJ Dan. Open from 6pm
EDEN BAR

BIG GAY FRIDAY Music from 80s 90s and today. Every Friday. A great party night out!
MISSING BAR

CULT Bringing dirty house back home. Top Floor from 10pm
NIGHTINGALE CLUB

DJ DEANO On the decks. Happy Hour 12noon-2am
THE VILLAGE INN

DROP THE BOMB start of your weekend. £1.50 on all bombs ,excluding the Gutterbomb) with our resident DJ Rowan
SIDEWALK

LA VOIX - *Thurs 2 & 16 Oct* - Live on stage alternate Thursdays. Cocktails & Cabaret
EDEN BAR

MISS MARTY'S MAD-HOUSE Songs, Games and Happy Hour until 2am. With Miss Marty and DJ Deano
THE VILLAGE INN

POUNDED £5 entry. Drinks from a £1. DJ Corey playing chart, dance and urban on Ground Floor. Miss Marty and DJ Craig with all the pop and cheese you could ask for on the middle floor
NIGHTINGALE CLUB

[illegible] Drinks from £1
THE FOX

PARTY POP [illegible]

LA VOIX'S GOT TALENT AT EDEN BAR!

Britain's Got Talent semi-finalist La Voix heads back to Birmingham this month with not one, but two shows at popular gay venue Eden!

Catch her live on stage on at Eden on Thursday 2 and Thurs 16 October
EDEN - BIRMINGHAM

BAR JESTER

THE URBAN COLLECTION [illegible]

MISS TIMS

WEST MIDLANDS

CAMP KARAOKE and ca[illegible]
THREE FURNACES, TELFORD

CLUB KARAOKE with DJ Z[illegible]
THE LION, WALSALL

GET OUT with DJ Te[illegible]
THE BELL, STOURBRIDGE

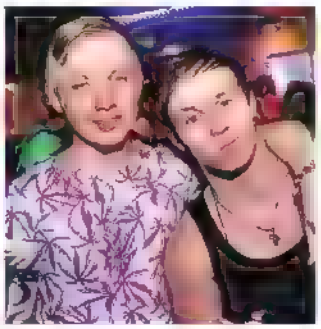
POP 69! 9pm-[illegible]
GORGEOUS, WOLVES

RETRO [illegible] drinks from £[illegible]
THE WHITE HART, WOLVERHAMPTON

EAST MIDLANDS

2 TILL 2 [illegible]
THE BOSTON, NORTHAMPTON

A great night out clubbing at Brum's Bar Jester

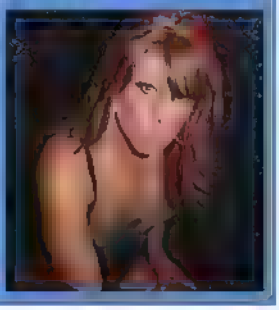


If you want somewhere a bit different to go to end your night out in Birmingham's Gay Village, then pop and see Cherub and the team at Bar Jester.

The venue is a really popular place, not only because of the great music and awesome drinks deals, but because the party goes on right through until the sun comes up! Booooom

LIVE CABARET at award-winning Birmingham bar

Every Friday night sees a different act take to the stage at award-winning Birmingham cabaret bar The Village Inn. The line-up regularly features some of the UK's best drag talent, and this month is no exception. Fri 3 sees Lola Lasagne visiting, Fri 10 brings Son Of A Tutu to the stage, and Fri 17 sees Kelly Wilde putting in an appearance. The Drag With No Name returns on Fri 22, with Sandra wrapping up the month on Fri 31



BIRMINGHAM

2 FOR 1 COCKTAILS - Sunday to Friday All day & night Wind down after work with a cocktail or two
THE LOFT LOUNGE

2 FOR £10 Monday to Friday 12-6pm Delicious new menu.
SIDEWALK

ALL DAY EVERY DAY PRICES Du Parm, takes over the weekend by playing the best of club classics, house, R&B and a... your favourites Enjoy all day every day prices too
SIDEWALK

DJ JAMES HOSTS A NIGHT OF PARTY TUNES

Every Friday sees Birmingham's Missing Bar hosting a night of party anthems. Join DJ James from 9pm till late and blast out some of your favourite songs over the speakers! Don't forget there are great drinks offers too!
MISSING - BIRMINGHAM

BIG GAY FRIDAY Party anthems all night long with Missing s Du James Open until the early hours
MISSING BAR

DISCO & KARAOKE with DJ Nikk.
EDEN BAR

FREAKY FRIDAY with DJ Lotty Big name cabaret at midnight Open unt. 6am. ***Fri 3 Oct*** Lola Lasagne ***Fri 10 Oct*** Son of a Tutu. ***Fri 17 Oct*** Kelly Wilde ***Fri 24 Oct*** Drag With No Name ***Fri 31 Oct*** Sandra Happy Hour 12noon 8pm
THE VILLAGE INN

INFUSION Free Entry Absolute Anthems and Floor Fillers with Du Corey Drinks from £2 Admission £2
NIGHTINGALE CLUB

KICK START Kick start the weekend from 9pm til the early hours Hosted by James
MISSING BAR

LBR With Charlotte the Harlotte Open until 6am every Friday
THE VILLAGE INN

INFUSION

Join DJ Corey every Friday night for Infusion. Corey will be playing the best anthems and floorfillers on the scene. Drinks are from £2 all night long - and it's £2 entry all night long too!

MIDSBEARS - ***Fri 17 Oct*** - Monthly meet up and social group for Bears and Admirers
EDEN BAR

MIDSBEAR MEET-UP AT EDEN BAR

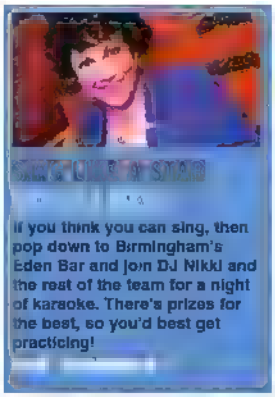
Friday 17 October sees Midsbears take place at Birmingham's Eden Bar. If you've not been before, it's a monthly social group for Bears and their admirers. It's a great night out too, so be sure to pop along!

OLD SKOOL GARAGE The first Friday of the month sees the Nightingale go back in time playing some of the best in old skool garage A night not to be missed.
NIGHTINGALE CLUB

SAATHI RETURNS FOR A BIT OF BHANGRA!

If you're looking for a different experience, then head down to The Nightingale on Friday 31 October for Saathi. Featuring a ton of Bollywood and Bhangra tunes, it's going to be a great night out for Asian music fans!

SAATHI - ***Fri 31 Oct*** - Every last Friday monthly. South Asian Gay and Lesbian club night Bollywood and Bhangra
NIGHTINGALE CLUB



SING STAR SUPERSTAR

If you think you can sing, then pop down to Birmingham's Eden Bar and join DJ Nikki and the rest of the team for a night of karaoke. There's prizes for the best, so you'd best get practicing!

SING STAR SUPERSTAR with DJ Nikk, every Friday your chance to win cash!
EDEN BAR

VINTAGE FRIDAYS a night of soul, funk, rock motown Northern Soul and all the classic favourites
THE LOFT LOUNGE

XXL - ***Fri 17 Oct*** - Men only night with Du Christian M. Early Bear offers until 11pm Every 3rd Friday of each month
THE CORE CLUB

BOLLYWOOD NIGHTS Every last...
CLUB DV8

FUNK'D UP a...ernat...
CLUB CHIC

KARAOKE Come and have a sing...
THE FOX

...TWO FRIDAY F...
To Matt H... y H...
SEA...

WEST MIDLANDS

TV PARTY NIGHT A Men s Night for TVs Cross Dressers and Admirers Every Friday night at
THE GREENHOUSE, DARLASTON

BACK 2 BACK KARAOKE with D...
THE WHITE HART, WOLVERHAMPTON

CLUB NIGHT Drink pron...
THE THREE FURNACES, TELFORD

CLUB FRIDAY with Du Z...
THE LION, WALSALL

FRIDAY SOCIAL with Du Pa...
THE BELL, STOURBRIDGE

LUSH & YOLO! 1...
GORGEOUS CLUB, WOLVERHAMPTON

PARTY NIGHT with DJ Laura A...
RAINBOWS, COVENTRY

START THE WEEKEND Free ad...
PINK, STOKE ON TRENT

TFI FRIDAY A fun and fun...
BREWERY TAP, WORCESTER

EAST MIDLANDS

CABARET NIGHT ...
DOVER CASTLE LEICESTER

CLUB NIGHT with ...
HELSINKI, LEICESTER

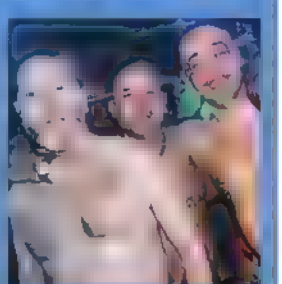
PINK POUNDER Every F...
THE BOSTON, NORTHAMPTON

VALUE FRIDAY Disco 9pm-4a...
NEW FORESTERS, NOTTINGHAM

THE WEEKEND STARTS HERE F...
NG1, NOTTINGHAM

It's a man's world at XXL in Birmingham's Gay Village

For all you men who like men out there, be sure to drop by XXL on the third Friday of the month (Fri 17 Oct). It's a great night that attracts men from right across the Midlands. With resident DJ Christian M playing the latest and greatest dancefloor fillers, you'll be partying alongside bears, otters, cubs... you name it, they'll be there! It's a fiver to get in, and there are drinks offers all night long. A night not to be missed!



The Village Inn

OCTOBER

FRIDAY 03
Lola Lasagne

FRIDAY 10
Son of a Tutu

FRIDAY 17
Kelly Wilde

FRIDAY 24
Drag with no name

HALLOWEEN SPECIAL

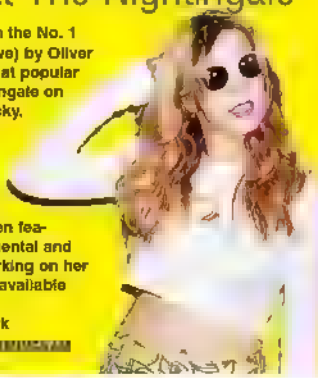
FRIDAY 31
Sandra

SATURDAY 1ST NOVEMBER
HALLOWEEN SPECIAL
BIG CASH PRIZES TO BE WON

let us entertain you

VILLAGEINNBIRMINGHAM @VILLAGEBRUM THEVILLAGEBIRMINGHAM

BECKY HILL set to go into Overdrive at The Nightingale



Becky Hill, the vocalist on the No. 1 hit single Gecko (Overdrive) by Oliver Heldens, is set to appear at popular gay superclub The Nightingale on Saturday 11 October! Becky, who hails from the Midlands, shot to fame when she appeared on BBC talent show The Voice, but was eliminated in the semi-finals. She then featured on tracks for Rudimental and Wilkinson and is now working on her debut album. Tickets are available from www.nightingaleclub.co.uk

THE NIGHTINGALE CLUB - BIRMINGHAM

BIRMINGHAM

DJ DAN TAKES YOU BACK TO THE '80s

If you fancy turning back the clock thirty-odd years, then head down to Eden Bar in Birmingham, where DJ Dan takes it back to the 1980s. Expect some of the biggest tunes from the decade, not to mention cheap drinks promotions! EDEN - BIRMINGHAM

80S HITS with DJ Dan from 2am it's back to the 80s with cheap drink promotions
EDEN BAR

THE ATTIC Available for hire. Call the venue for more info 0121 622 4256
[illegible] BAR

BACK TO THE 80S 2am 4am
EDEN BAR

BECKY HILL - *Sat 11 Oct* - The Gecko (Overdrive) singer heads to Birmingham for a night of live music
NIGHTINGALE CLUB

DOUBLE DJ FUN AT THE VILLAGE INN

Every Saturday night at The Village Inn you're treated to not one, but two great DJs to dance the night away with. Join DJ Lotty & DJ Richard Moon for some of the biggest party anthems and floor fillers.

THE VILLAGE INN - BIRMINGHAM

BIG SATURDAY NIGHT OUT Over 2 floors. 3 DJs. Open til 8am. With DJ Lotty & DJ Richard Moon. With DJ Tonie in The Village Jnderground.
THE VILLAGE INN

IT'S SATURDAY NIGHT AT THE NIGHTINGALE

Saturday is without doubt the biggest night of the week at The Nightingale Club in Birmingham. You've got three floors of partying, split across four great rooms of music. You'd be mad not to pop in and party the night away!

THE NIGHTINGALE - BIRMINGHAM

BIG SATURDAY NIGHT OUT Every Saturday with loads of drinks promotions
[illegible] CLUB

CULT Bringing dirty house back home. Top Floor from 10pm
[illegible] CLUB

KARAOKE & COCKTAILS in The Attic, plus music from across the decades
MISSING

LBR With Charlotte the Harlotte. Open until 8am every Saturday
THE VILLAGE INN

SATURS-FACTION AT BRUM'S SIDEWALK

One of Birmingham's most popular bars, Sidewalk promises a great night of top satisfaction, with resident DJ Kam playing the very best music to help you kick off your evening in style. There are great drinks offers

[illegible] - BIRMINGHAM

SATURS-FACTION Welcome in the weekend with resident DJ playing the best of everything
SIDEWALK

SATURDAY SESSIONS With DJ Simon Baker from 8pm
THE LOFT LOUNGE

SATURDAY SESSIONS WITH SIMON BAKER

Every Saturday night sees veteran DJ Simon Baker take to the decks at The Loft Lounge in Birmingham, ensuring your Saturday night gets off to a great start. It's the perfect way to relax - or to get the party started!

THE LOFT LOUNGE - BIRMINGHAM

SWAGGERLICIOUS Every Saturday night (Room 4)
NIGHTINGALE CLUB

WE <3 SATURDAYS with DJ Mykee playing the best party tunes. Featuring Twiggy and sexy Shane on his stills. Open until 4am.
MISSING BAR

WE <3 SATURDAYS AT MISSING BAR!

Join DJ Mykee every Saturday for a great night of music and a fantastic party atmosphere. There's an appearance from the glamorous Twiggy, too - and sexy topless dancers! It's worth popping in just for that!

[illegible] - [illegible]

THE BREAKFAST CLUB [illegible]
CLUB CHIC

DJ NIKKI 1st Sat mon[illegible]
EQUATOR BAR

DJ PARTY NIGHT Op[illegible]
THE FOX

[illegible] & WOODIER GROUP - *Sat 25 Oct* -
THE FOX

#JUST SAYING with DJ Ma[illegible]
BAR JESTER

KARAOKE Every Sat night
THE WELLINGTON

WEST MIDLANDS

OPENING NIGHT - *Sat 4 Oct* - Stoke on Trent's new venue Gossip opens its doors
GOSSIP, STOKE ON TRENT

[illegible]
THE LION, WALSALL

CAMP & SLAG

[illegible]

[illegible]
THE THREE FURNACES, TELFORD

[illegible]
RAINBOWS, COVENTRY

INCLUSION with big [illegible]
[illegible]

LIVE CABARET With Elvis Gaz a[illegible]
2.30am
[illegible]

NOT TO MISS Free admission [illegible]
PINK, STOKE ON TRENT

EAST MIDLANDS

[illegible]
9pm t. 6am. Free entry befor[illegible]
1pm. £3 before 1am
THE BOSTON, NORTHAMPTON

BIG SATURDAY NIGHT OUT - 10.30[illegible]

NG1, NOTTINGHAM

CLUB NIGHT With DJ Nik B[illegible]

HELSINKI, LEICESTER

It's time for a GOSSIP in Stoke-on-Trent...

Following the closure of The Factory - Stoke's biggest and most popular gay venue - the Potteries' gay community has been in real need of a brand new place to party. So please give a warm welcome to Gossip nightclub & bar, which opens its doors in Hanley on Saturday 4 October. We'll see you there! For all the latest information, go to www.facebook.com/gossip-stoke.

GOSSIP - STOKE ON TRENT

TEXT INFO TO 07973 985999
TO RECEIVE PROMOTIONS AND OFFERS

Stoke-On-Trent's Newest Gay Venue

GOSSIP!

GOSSIPSTOKE.CO.UK

Mon, Thurs, Fri, Sat - 5pm-4am
Sunday - Noon-2am

5 Hope Street, Hanley, Stoke-On-Trent, ST1 5BT

acebook.com/GossipStoke

Twitter.com/GossipStoke

LIVE CABARET at The Village Inn with Mrs Mills & DJ Deano

If you're a big fan of cabaret, and Friday night at The Village Inn wasn't enough for you, fear not - the popular Hurst [illegible] cabaret on Sunday nights too! This month's Sabbath star-turns are: Mrs Mills (Sun 5 Oct), Marty (Sun 12 Oct), Champagne Shirley (Sun 19 Oct) and the Divine Miss M (Sun 26 Oct). You lot are spoilt!

BIRMINGHAM

2 FOR 1 COCKTAILS Sunday to Friday. All day & night. Wind down after work with a cocktail or two
THE LOFT LOUNGE

2 FOR £10 New menu. Roast Dinner served every Sunday from 1pm
SIDEWALK

DISCO & KARAOKE with DJ Nikki. Every Sunday
EDEN BAR

MISS PENNY'S SUPERSIZE SUNDAYS Cabaret every Sunday hosted by the one and only Miss Penny

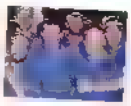
MISSING BAR

SUNDAY BREAKFAST The perfect hangover cure from 9am. Just £7.95. Carvery from 12noon for just £9.95
THE LOFT LOUNGE

SUNDAY SESSION & LIVE CABARET with Mrs Mills and DJ Deano. Plus Bingo with Mrs Mills from 7pm. *Sun 5 Oct* Mrs Mills. *Sun 12 Oct* Marty. *Sun 19 Oct* Champagne Shirley. *Sun 26 Oct* Divine Miss M. Happy Hour 12noon-10pm
THE VILLAGE INN

SUPER SUNDAY DINNER served from 1pm. Cure that hangover and choose from a variety of meats with all the best bits of a roast for only £6.95
SIDEWALK

QUIZICAL - *Sun 5 Oct* - with the Birmingham Bulls. Early evening from 5pm.



EDEN BAR

[illegible] *SUNDAY 5 OCT.*
THE FOX

CHILL OUT [illegible]
THE FOX

SUNDAY IS FUNDAY with [illegible]
BAR JESTER

[illegible]
THE WELLINGTON

VOX AT THE FOX *SUNDAY 26 OCT* -
THE FOX

WEST MIDLANDS

CHILL OUT [illegible]
RAINBOWS, COVENTRY

[illegible]
LION BAR & CLUB, WALSALL

[illegible]
GORGEOUS, WOLVERHAMPTON

QUEENS OF DRAG with Ma[illegible]
[illegible]
THREE FURNACES, TELFORD

SUNDAY ROAST [illegible]
THE WHITE HART, WOLVERHAMPTON

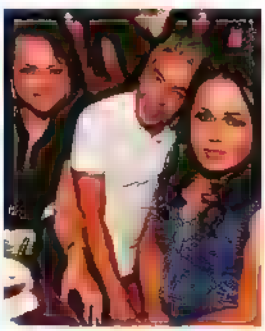
EAST MIDLANDS

BRUNCH CLUB Brunch for £[illegible]
RAINBOW & DOVE, LEICESTER

[illegible]
NEW FORESTERS, NOTTINGHAM

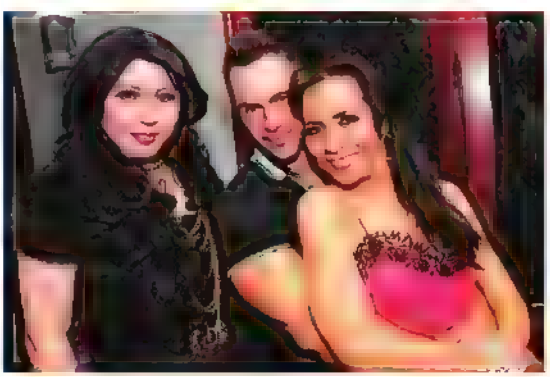
KARAOKE WITH T 9pm-2am £[illegible]
THE BOSTON, [illegible]

Lip Gloss girls (and boys) just wanna have fun!



Every first Friday of the month at Eden Bar in Birmingham, the city's trans* community get together for Lip Gloss - a great night out for the community, their friends and admirers.

It's a great night out, with live entertainment and a great spirit. Be sure to pop down this month (Friday 3 October), it's just £3 admission and runs from 9pm til 2am!



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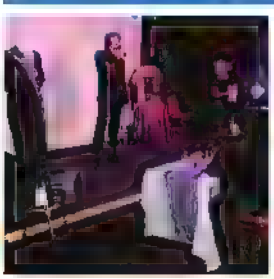
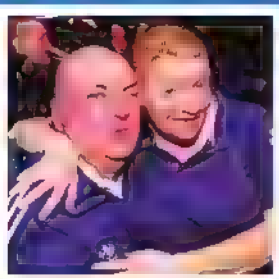
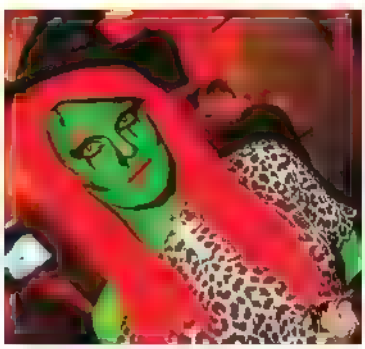
facebook.com/midlandszone.co.uk





THERE'S GHOULISH FUN TO BE HAD THIS HALLOWEEN



One of the most anticipated nights of the year on the Midlands gay scene is Halloween! It's a chance for you and your friends to crack open the fancy dress box and wear something gruesome and ghoulish (or, as seems to have been the case in previous years, pretty much nothing at all!). Here's our guide to what's coming up at the end of this month to celebrate this most spooktacular time of year!

FRI 31 OCT

2-4-1 SPOOKY COCKTAILS Start your Halloween night out in style with 2-4-1 Spooky Cocktails all weekend
The Loft Lounge, Birmingham

GORY GAVINA Ghoulish cabaret at Birmingham's Missing Bar with Gavina. Get in the mood and come in fancy dress!
Missing, Birmingham

HALLOWEEN WEEKEND A big party night at Sidewalk with a scary fancy dress competition. 1st prize: £50 and a bottle of Champagne. 2nd prize: £20 and a bottle of Champagne. 3rd prize: A bottle of Champagne.
Sidewalk, Birmingham

LIP GLOSS HALLOWEEN SPECIAL A special Halloween themed Lip Gloss comes to Birmingham's Eden Bar. A night for the city's trans* community, their friends and beyond. £3 admission.
Eden, Birmingham

QUARANTINE The Nightingale Club's big Halloween special. The Quarantine club night will feature lots of spooky fun, as well as a £1,000 giveaway
The Nightingale Club, Birmingham

SCAREFEST The first of two scary club nights at the pop-[illegible] whole host of resident DJs [illegible]
Club Chic, Birmingham

SAT 1 NOV

2-4-1 SPOOKY COCKTAILS Start your Halloween night out in style with 2-4-1 Spooky Cocktails all weekend.
The Loft Lounge, Birmingham

HALLOWEEN WEEKEND A big party night at Sidewalk with a scary fancy dress competition. 1st prize: £50 and a bottle of Champagne. 2nd prize: £20 and a bottle of Champagne. 3rd prize: A bottle of Champagne
Sidewalk, Birmingham

TWIGGY TERROR & GORY GAVINA A super spooky night out at Birmingham's Missing Bar with the one and only Twiggy. There's also cabaret with Gavina and music from DJ Maimed Mykee. Expect a great night out with lots of gory fun!
Missing, Birmingham

SCAREFEST [illegible]
Club Chic, Birmingham

SUN 2 NOV

2-4-1 SPOOKY COCKTAILS Start your Halloween night out in style with 2-4-1 Spooky Cocktails all weekend
The Loft Lounge, Birmingham

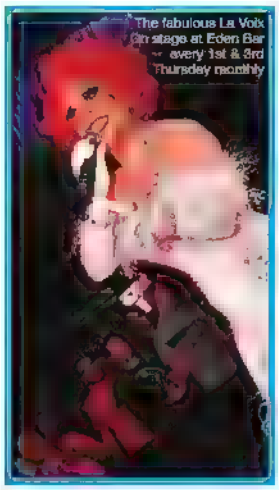
MISS PENNY DREADFUL Deathly disturbing live cabaret from popular Midlands darg queen Miss Penny! A great end to your Halloween weekend!
Missing, Birmingham

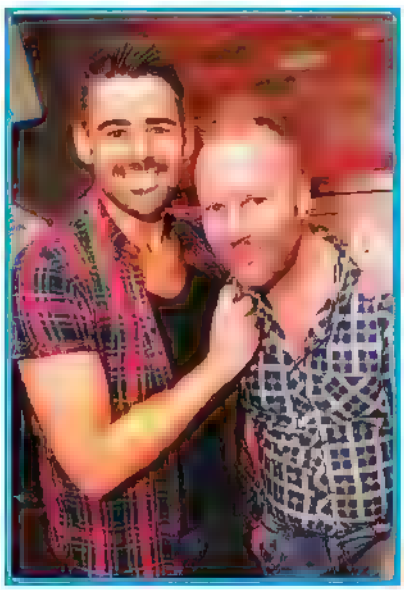
It's a man's world at Birmingham's **Eden Bar!**

If you've not yet managed to make it to Birmingham to visit the mega-popular Eden Bar, where have you been?

The venue was awarded the title of Best Bar For Men at the Midlands Zone Readers Awards earlier this year, owing to the fact that it's usually rammajammed with guys from across the city and beyond. Of course, girls are more than welcome to pop along and enjoy the great atmosphere, too - not to mention the cheap drinks and top music.

DJ Dan takes to the decks every weekend, playing the very best in cheesy pop, hits from today, sounds from the 80s and more!


The fabulous La Voix on stage at Eden Bar every 1st & 3rd Thursday monthly



eden
OCTOBER
Sun 5th
QUIZZICAL
WITH THE
BIRMINGHAM
BULLS
FROM 5PM
Fri 17th
MidsBears
Monthly Meet
In the Marquee
Special Drinks
Offers -
All Night
Fri 31st
Colour Your Life &
Shimmer Your Night
HALLOWEEN THEMED
LIP GLOSS
Sat 1st Nov
IN THE MARQUEE
QUEENS
OF POP
& FABIO
KERRI'S
BIRTHDAY
BASH
ALL WELCOME
La Voix
THURS 2nd
THURS 16th
If you haven't yet been to
what is fast becomming
the best cabaret night in
town you need to get
along and see La Voix.
Now Filling the Marquee !
exclusive to eden
EVERY THURS
EVERY FRI & SUN
EVERY SAT
I ♥ THE 90s
90s HITS WITH
DJ DAN
GREAT ATMOSPHERE
KARAOKE &
DISCO DJ NIKKI
COME ALONG & SING
WITH A FRIENDLY
REGULAR CROWD
80s HITS WITH
DJ DAN
POP & DANCE TILL 2
80s FROM 2-4 AM &
CRAZY DRINK PRICES
Open from 2pm every day.
116 Sheriock Street Birmingham
www.theedenbar.co.uk

SCARY 3 NIGHTER
HALLOWEEN WEEKEND
30th Oct 1 Nov
AT SIDEWALK
125 HURST ST
BIRMINGHAM
WEST MIDLANDS B5 6SE
SCARY DRESS COMPETITION ALL 3 NIGHTS!
£50 & BOTTLE OF CHAMPAGNE
2nd £20 & BOTTLE OF CHAMPAGNE
3rd BOTTLE OF CHAMPAGNE

The Loft Lounge: Brum's sexy & stylish venue

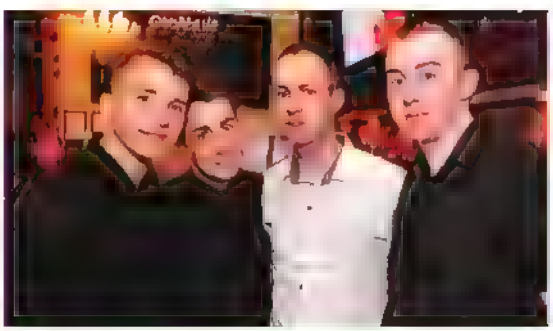
If you're a lover of cocktails, fine wine and Champagne, you might want to consider heading down to Birmingham's Loft Lounge, right in the heart of the city's gay village.

The Loft Lounge has always been a popular place to start a night out, due to its laid-back atmosphere, great drinks and equally impressive food menu.

Every Saturday night DJ Simon Baker takes to the decks to get you in the mood for a great night out with your mates.

If you've not been to The Loft Lounge before, be sure to pop in asap!

www.theloftlounge.co.uk



Pictures by Laura Byrne

The Loft Lounge
Birmingham
SPECIAL
2-4-1
SPOOKY COCKTAILS
LOFT.BIRMINGHAM
@LOFTLOUNGE2
LOFTBIRMINGHAM

THE UK'S BIGGEST REGIONAL GAY LIFESTYLE MAGAZINE
READ MIDLANDS ZONE ON THE GO!
ZONE
SEARCH FOR US @ WWW.ISSUU.COM

Every night's party night at Birmingham's **Missing**

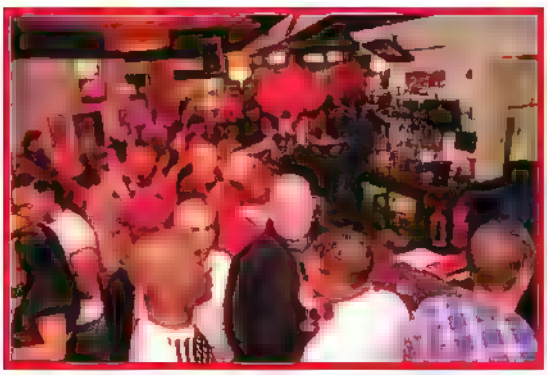
Who doesn't love a party bar on their night out? The Brummies certainly do - and luckily for them, they've got the perfect place to head for, right in the heart of Birmingham's gay village!

Missing bar's Saturday nights are something to behold, bringing together loads of happy punters, great music and cheap drinks.

The music comes from DJ Mykee, who plays a great range of cheese, pop, dance R&B, commercial and more

Meanwhile, your hostess for the evening, Twiggy, is always on hand to make sure you're having a great time! So next time you're in Birmingham, why not pop in?

More great photos on **facebook**
facebook.com/midlandszone.co.uk



Pictures by **Laura Byrne**

7 DAYS TO PLAY, 7 NIGHTS TO PARTY
Missing
HALLOWEEN
WEEKEND
30 OCT -02 NOV 2014
1 NOVEMBER
TWIGGY TERROR
30 OCT & 1 NOV
DJ MAIMED
MYKEE
31 OCT & 1 NOV
GORY GAVINA
2 NOVEMBER
MISS PENNY DREADFUL

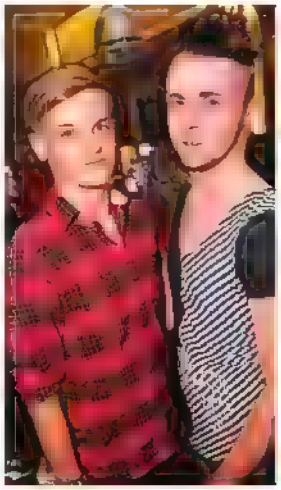
Party on a budget at Birmingham's **Sidewalk**

A little bit skint this month? Then you might want to pop down to Birmingham's Sidewalk, because they've got some cracking drinks offers!

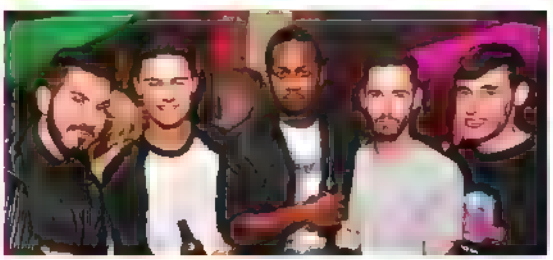
The busy bar offers all day, everyday prices' on a great selection of drinks that certainly won't hurt your wallet too much! Pints of Carling and Strongbow, as well as bottles of Corona, come in at just £2.75. But if beer isn't your thing, then you might want to have a look at Sidewalk's deals on spirits too.

Away from its fab drink prices Sidewalk is a laid-back bar with great music - especially on a Saturday, when the bar is swarming with party-hard gays and girls!

fb.com/sidewalkbirmingham



More great photos on **facebook**
facebook.com/midlandszone.co.uk



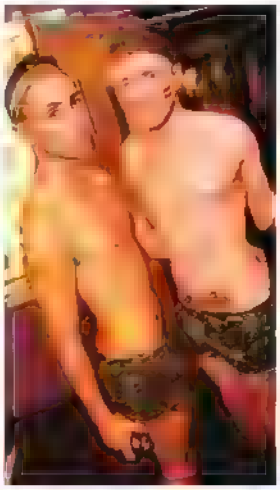
Dance the night away at **The Nightingale Club**

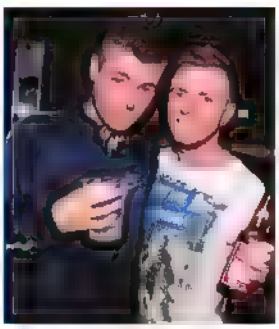
If you're a fan of clubbing at the end of your night out, we're pretty sure you'll absolutely love The Nightingale in Birmingham.

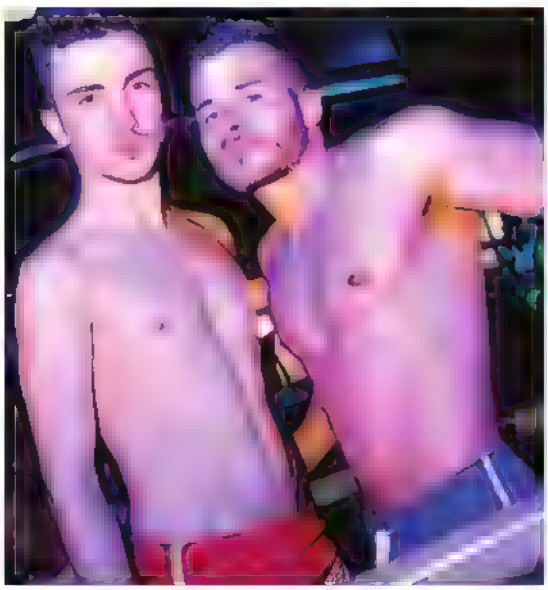
The venue is the biggest gay club in the entire Midlands and features three floors of great music, split between four rooms. There really is something for everyone, regardless of your taste in music.

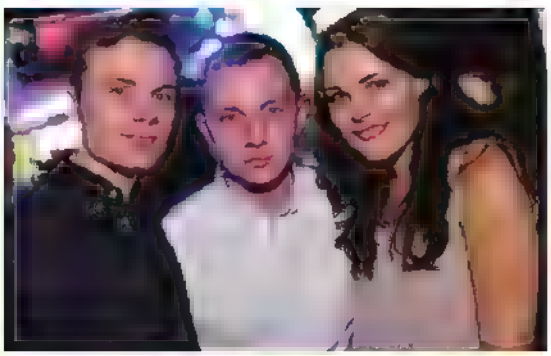
One of our highlights is definitely the awesome cabaret on the middle floor with the one and only Miss Marty - expect some great performances, along with a smattering of smut!

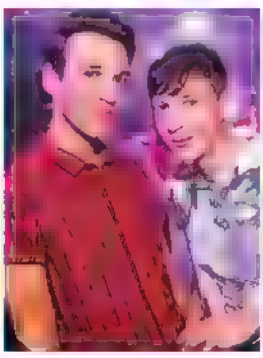
If that isn't the best possible end to your night, we don't know what is!











Pictures by **Laura Byrne**

Pubbing and clubbing in **Birmingham's Gay Village**

We Midlanders are very lucky, having such a great selection of LGBT venues available to us in the second city of Birmingham.

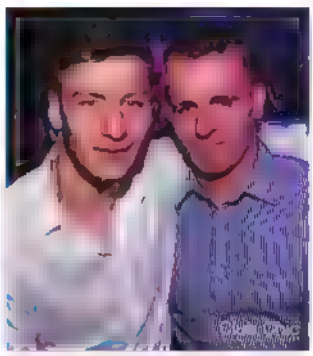
Boasting over 15 gay bars and clubs, Birmingham has one of the UK's most diverse and vibrant LGBT scenes

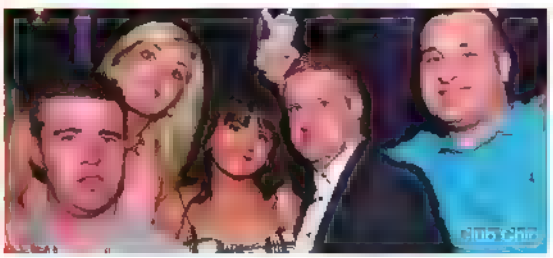
Across these two pages, we take a look at four of these venues. The Fox, popular with the region's gay girls, Equator, a great community bar, DV8, one of three gay nightclubs, and Club Chic, popular with the gay and straight community alike

There's certainly something for everyone - so get going and enjoy a night out with your mates

www.visitgaybrum.co.uk

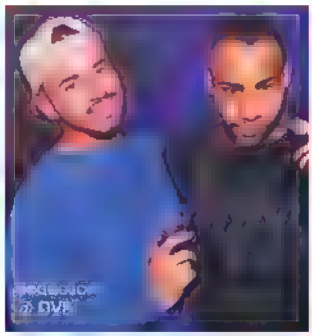
More great photos on facebook



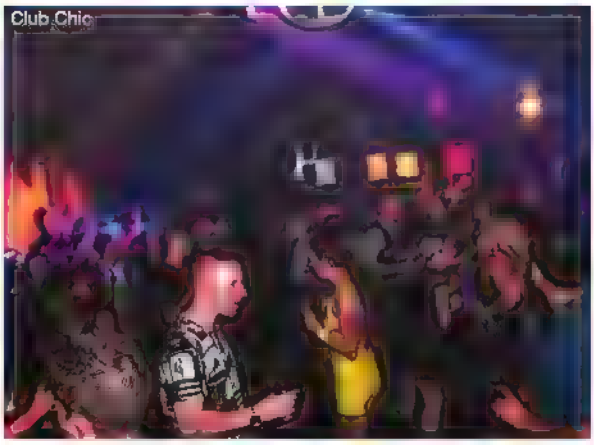


Pictures by Laura Byrne

e Fox


@ DV8

Seduction
@ DV8


Club Chic

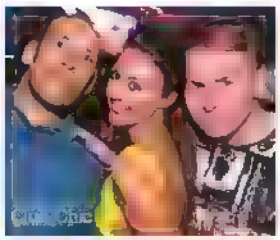
Club Chic

Seduction
@ DV8

The Fox

Equator

The Fox



The Fox

Seduction
@ DV8

Seduction
@ DV8

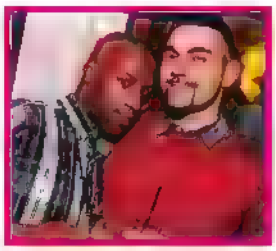
There's cabaret fun to be had at **The Village Inn**

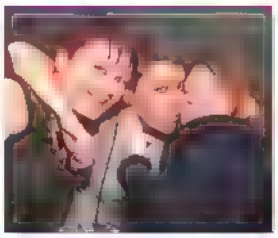
According to the hit Liza Minnelli film (you know the one), life is a cabaret, old chum. We're big fans of cabaret - and if you are too, you should take a trip down to The Village Inn in Birmingham on a Friday night.

As you can see below, Lady Imelda last month smashed it to an enthusiastic audience, ably illustrating just how popular Friday night cabaret is at the Hurst Street venue

With a different act to enjoy every week, you certainly won't get bored - and what's more, you'll get to see some of the UK's very best performers

If that's still not enough for you, pop back on a Sunday for even more cabaret! Check out our Scene Diary for listings!





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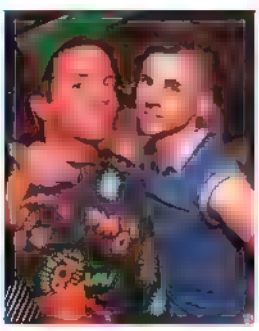

Pictures by Antony Collins

Birmingham

BAR ANYTIME
Holloway Circus
B1 1EG
Tel: 0121 643 8344

BOLTZ CLUB
Lower Essex St, B5 6QP
Tel: 0121 666 6888

CLUB CHIC
28 Horsefair B1 1DD
Tel: 0121 666 6806

CLUB DIVA
16 Lower Essex
Street, B5 6RD
Tel: 0121 622 1050

THE CORE (17)
Sherlock St, B5 6NB
Tel: 0121 622 2797
www.thecoreclub.co.uk
/thecoreclubbirmingham

EDEN BAR (38)
Sherlock St, B5 6NB
Tel: 0121 622 1953
www.theedenbar.co.uk
/eden.bar
See pictures on page 38

EQUATOR
Hurst St, B5 6SE
Tel: 0121 622 5077

FOUNTAIN INN
Wrentham St, B5 6QL
Tel: 0121 622 1452

THE FOX
17 Lower Essex St,
B5 6SN Tel: 0121 622 3213

LOFT LOUNGE (41)
142 Bromsgrove St,
B5 6RG
Tel: 0121 6222 444
www.theloftlounge.co.uk
/The-Loft-Lounge
See pictures on page 40

MISSING BAR (42)
Hurst St, B5 6NJ
Tel: 0121 622 4256
www.missingbar.co.uk
/missingbar
See pictures on page 42

THE NIGHTINGALE (43)
Kent St, B'ham
B5 6RD
Tel: 0121 622 1718
www.nightingaleclub.co.uk
/thenightingaleclub
See pictures on page 45

RSVP (formerly Queer Street)
For Exclusive Hire
Hurst St, B5 6SE
Tel: 0121 622 2444

SIDEWALK (44)
Hurst Street
B1 1EG
Tel: 0121 666 6220
www.sidewalkbirmingham.co.uk
See pictures on page 44

THE VILLAGE INN (45)
Hurst St, B'ham
B5 4BD
Tel: 0121 622 4742
www.villagebirmingham.co.uk
/villageinnbirmingham
See pictures on page 48

THE WELLINGTON
72 Bristol St, B5 7AH
Tel: 0121 622 2592

West Midlands

COVENTRY

RAINBOWS
Short St, CV1 2LW
Tel: 02476 551738

GLOUCESTER

THE VESTGATE
Westgate Street
GL1 2NF
Tel: 01452 690045

KIDDERMINSTER

ROYAL EXCHANGE
31 New Road, DY10 1AF
Tel: 01562 228619

LEEK

VALIANT
3 Stanley Street, ST13 5HG
Tel: 01538 382812

SHREWSBURY

C21 CLUB (26)
Abbey Foregate
SY2 6AE
Tel: 01743 271821
www.c21bar.co.uk
/C21Nightclub
See pictures on page 29

THE PEACH TREE
21 Abbey Foregate,
Tel: 01743 355055
www.thepeachtree.co.uk
/ThePeachTreeRestaurant

SPIRIT
22 Abbey Foregate
SY2 6AE
Tel: 01743 271821
www.spiritchampagne.co.uk
/SpiritShrewsbury

STOKE-ON-TRENT

GOSSIP (36)
4 Hope Street,
ST1 5BT
Tel: 01743 271821
/gossipstoke

HUB
93 Stafford Street
ST1 1LS
Tel: 01782 272772

STOURBRIDGE

THE BELL
20 Market St, DY8 1AG
Tel: 07826 518478

STRATFORD upon AVON

NO7
Prowd Crowd
1st Mon monthly
7 Windsor St,
Tel: 07787 642510

TELFORD

THREE FURNACES
30 Bridgnorth Rd
Madeley, TF7 4JB
Tel: 01952 588521

WALSALL

LION BAR & CLUB
Birchills St,
WS2 8NG
Tel: 01922 610977

THE RED LION
Park St, WS1 1NW
Tel: 01922 637790

WEST BROMWICH

BOND STREET TAVERN
14 Bond St, WV2 4AS
Tel: 07825 305050

GORGEOUS CLUB
School St, WV1 4JF
Tel: 01902 427247

THE WHITE HART
Worcester St
WV2 4LQ
Tel: 01902 423998

WORCESTER

THE FLAG
50 Lowesmoor, WR1 2SG
Tel: 01905 780467

VELVET CLUB
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Jersey Boys

Rockin' and rollin' New Jersey boys Frankie Valli and The Four Seasons scored some truly massive hits during the mid-1960s, with best-known numbers including Walk Like A Man, Bye Bye Baby, Big Girls Don't Cry, Sherry and December 1963 (Oh What A Night). This massive jukebox musical tells their story. Taking a documentary-style format, the show is structured as four 'seasons', each being narrated by a different member of the band. The Tony, Olivier and Grammy award-winning production is visiting the Midlands as part of its first ever UK tour.

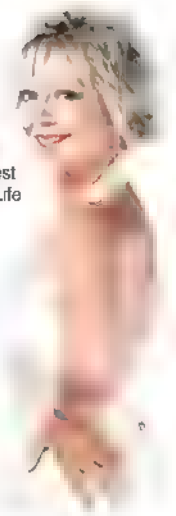
Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, Tues 28 October - Sat 8 November;
New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, Tues 9 December - Sun 4 January

Blood Brothers

A spectacular and captivating adaptation of TS Eliot's Old Possum's Book Of Practical Cats, this Andrew Lloyd Webber production has been performed in over three hundred cities in more than twenty countries around the world. It's also widely considered to be the show that redefined the modern musical, paving the way for a seemingly relentless stream of blockbuster hits. All in all, then, one helluva theatrical experience.

Birmingham Hippodrome, Mon 13 - Sat 25 October.

The Life and Songs Of Judy Garland



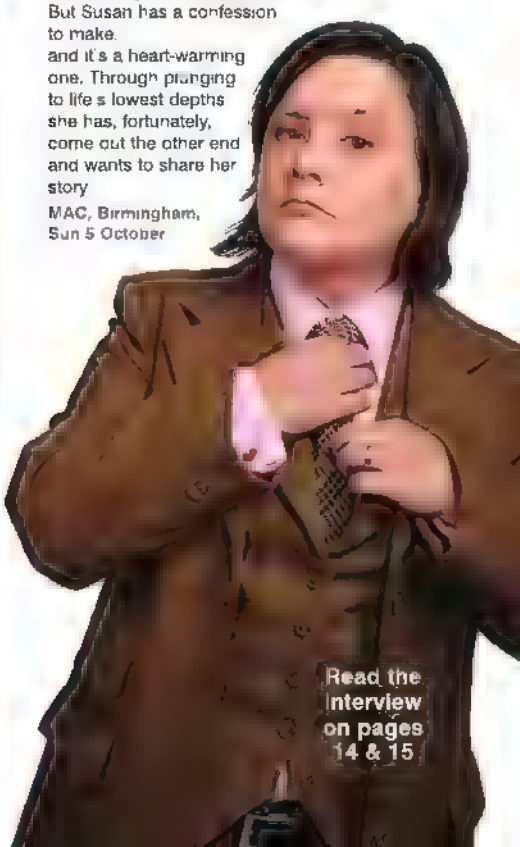
After her triumphant salute to Edith Piaf, Sally Jones returns in her lastest show 'Get Happy - The Life and Songs of Judy Garland', Sally pays tribute to the legendary actress/singer Judy Garland. With a beautifully crafted narration, this performance is a sympathetic look at the life of the woman Fred Astaire called 'the greatest entertainer of all time'.

Little Theatre, Leicester, Sun 26 October

Susan Calman: Lady Like

Lady Like is a chance to spend an hour with the woman known as "The Mad Cat Lady" to her neighbours, and Calman promises to reassure you, make you feel better about your own life and let you find out what being lady-like really means. How will she do this? With anecdotes, observations and no-holds-barred honesty of course, such is the manner of the feisty scot. The Times called a "diminutive lesbian" with "chirpy, optimistic level-headedness." But Susan has a confession to make, and it's a heart-warming one. Through plunging to life's lowest depths she has, fortunately, come out the other end and wants to share her story.

MAC, Birmingham, Sun 5 October



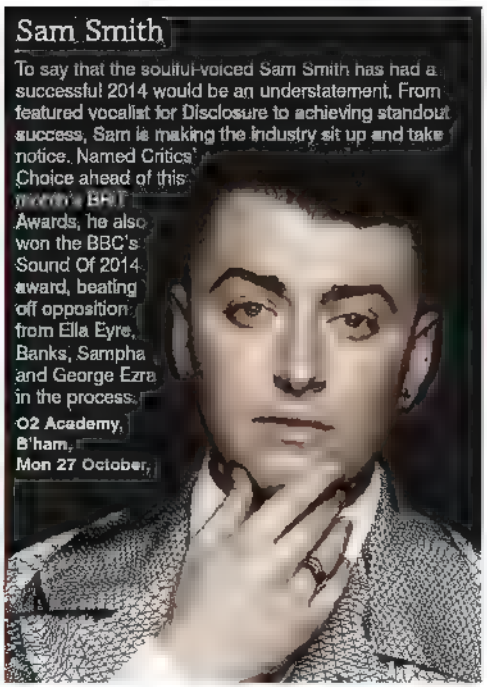
Read the interview on pages 14 & 15

Lady Gaga

With an eccentric personality and her flamboyant and diverse contributions to the music industry, Lady Gaga is a bonafide pop superstar. Rising to prominence in 2008 with debut album The Fame - a critical and commercial success which produced global chart-topping singles such as Just Dance and Poker Face - she's since released four additional albums The Fame Monster, Born This Way, Artpop and Cheek To Cheek, the latter being a collaborative effort with good friend Tony Bennett. She visits Birmingham this month with her artRAVE show, which her management says has been uniquely designed to bring Gaga even closer to her fans, no matter where they're seated

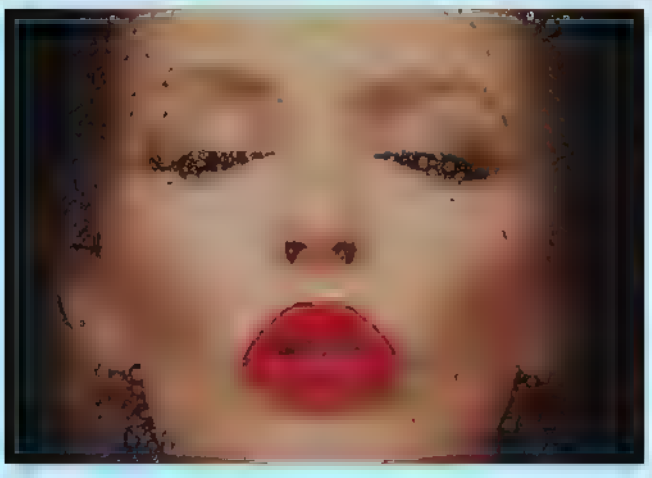
National Indoor Arena, Birmingham, Wed 15 October

Sam Smith



To say that the soulful-voiced Sam Smith has had a successful 2014 would be an understatement. From featured vocalist for Disclosure to achieving standout success, Sam is making the industry sit up and take notice. Named Critics' Choice ahead of this month's BRIT Awards, he also won the BBC's Sound Of 2014 award, beating off opposition from Ella Eyre, Banks, Sampha and George Ezra in the process.

O2 Academy, B'ham, Mon 27 October



Kylie

When a fresh-faced Kylie Minogue released her first single, 1988's annoyingly catchy I Should Be So Lucky, how many people would've predicted she'd go on to become one of the hottest properties in the music business? The secret with Kylie has been her willingness to adapt both her look and her sound and as the years have rolled by, she's successfully broadened her appeal and earned increasing respect from the music critics. Her stint on BBC One's hit talent contest The Voice has ensured she's remained centre-stage in recent times, with her current Kiss Me Once tour looking set to re-establish her as a sensational live performer. This is Kylie's first Birmingham concert in nine years

National Indoor Arena, Birmingham, Tues 7 October

Ed Sheeran

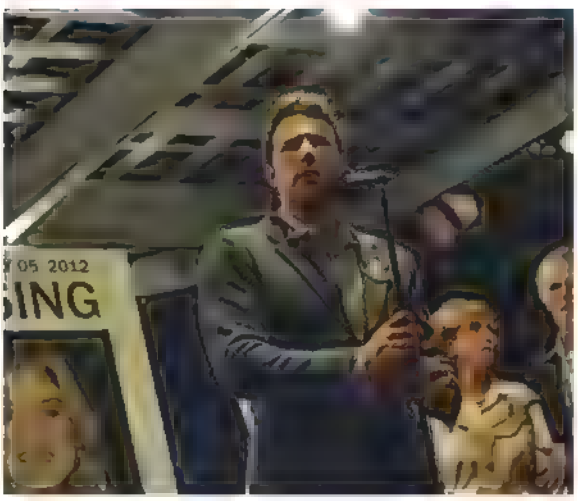
When Ed Sheeran's A Team, from debut album +, became a much-loved anthem at student balls everywhere, the flame-haired singer finally achieved the mainstream attention his efforts deserved. Ed began recording in 2005 and then hit the gig trail hard - in 2009 alone, he played over three hundred sets. Despite this significant commitment to touring, Ed's also found time to release a second album, x, which includes the single I See Fire, a song familiar not only to his own fans but also to Tolkien buffs, courtesy of Peter Jackson's blockbuster Hobbit movie. Support at this gig comes from Nottingham's Saint Raymond.

National Indoor Arena, Birmingham Sat 18 Dec; LG Arena, Birmingham, Sun 19 - Mon 20 October

Horns CERT tbc

Starring **Daniel Radcliffe, Juno Temple, James Remar, Kelli Garner, Heather Graham, Max Minghella**
Directed by **Alexandre Aja (USA/Canada)**

Daniel Radcliffe switches the lightning bolt scar on his forehead for a pair of horns in this dark fantasy. But it's only after the rape and murder of his girlfriend that our Dan discovers an aptitude for the paranormal. Based on the book by Joe Hill. Out 24 October



Gone Girl CERT tbc

Starring **Ben Affleck, Rosamund Pike, Neil Patrick Harris, Tyler Perry, Carrie Coon, Kim Dickens, Patrick Fugit, Scoot McNairy** Directed by **David Fincher (USA)**

Any film from David Fincher is an event. Think Seven, Fight Club, The Social Network, TV's House of Cards... Here, Gillian Flynn adapts her own 2012 novel about a man, Nick Dunne (Affleck), who, on his fifth wedding anniversary, reports the disappearance of his wife. Then, as a media frenzy builds around the gone girl, suspicion starts to fall on Nick himself ... Incidentally, our very own Roz is getting some major Oscar buzz (and there's not even Judi Dench to contest her). Out 3 October

Dracula Untold

CERT tbc (99 mins)
Starring **Luke Evans, Dominic Cooper, Sarah Gadon, Charles Dance, Samantha Barks**
Directed by **Gary Shore (USA)**

In spite of the hundreds of films about the Transylvanian count, this version is actually based on the original novel by Bram Stoker. Expect fangs. And blood. And necks. Out 3 October

Dolphin Tale 2

CERT U (107 mins)
Starring **Luke Evans, Dominic Cooper, Sarah Gadon, Charles Dance, Samantha Barks**
Directed by **Gary Shore (USA)**

In spite of the hundreds of films about the Transylvanian count, this version is actually based on the original novel by Bram Stoker. Expect fangs. And blood. And necks. Out 3 October

'71

CERT 15 (112 mins)
Starring **Jack O'Connell, Sean Harris, Sam Reid, Charlie Murphy, David Wilmot** Directed by **Yann Demange (UK)**

15 is going to be a huge year for the Derby-born actor Jack O'Connell. He already wowed critics with his excoriating performance in this year's Starred Up and he's getting Oscar buzz for his starring role in Angelina Jolie's Unbroken. Here, he plays an unstable British soldier caught up in riots in Belfast in the year of the title. Out 10 October

Fury CERT tbc

Starring **Brad Pitt, Shia LaBeouf, Logan Lerman, Jon Bernthal, Michael Peña, Jason Isaacs, Scott Eastwood, Xavier Samuel** Directed by **David Ayer (USA)**

'Fury' is the name of a Sherman tank and Brad Pitt is in command. It's the last month of the war (the Second) and Pitt and his crew of five find themselves stuck behind enemy lines. And even though the Allies are mopping up all over Europe, Fury finds itself in dire straits as the full might of a Nazi backlash unleashes its fury. Pitt is said to be terrific in his role as the battle-hardened commander and the director David Ayer is known for his visceral, hard-hitting dramas (think Harsh Times and End of Watch). And there's even Oscar buzz. Out 24 October

DVDs

The Secret Path (18)

A unconventionally bold love story. Theo and Frank are on the run from the British Navy in the 1800s. They hide in the grounds of an abandoned country house and quickly learn that it's more than their former life they are running from. A strikingly original British queer feature, The Secret Path is like nothing you've seen before

I'm a Porn Star (18)

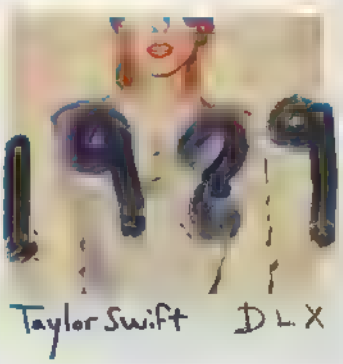
I'm a Porn Star follows the lives of guys in the neighborhood who are likely a lot more famous than you at least on the Internet. There are an estimated 370 million pornographic websites online. Porn is now a thirteen billion dollar business. So who's doing all this moonlighting? Turns out probably some people you know. Eye-opening, informative and very sexy...

...and something to read

More Fool Me by Stephen Fry

Stephen Fry invites readers to take a glimpse at his life story in the unputdownable More Fool Me, the follow up to his last autobiography, The Fry Chronicles. Containing raw, electric extracts from his diaries of the time, More Fool Me is a brilliant, eloquent account by a man driven to create and to entertain revealing a side to him he has long kept hidden. Stephen Fry is an award-winning comedian, actor, presenter and director. He rose to fame alongside Hugh Laurie in A Bit of Fry and Laurie (which he co-wrote with Laurie) and Jeeves and Wooster, and was unforgettable as Captain Melchett in Blackadder

New Music



1989
Taylor Swift

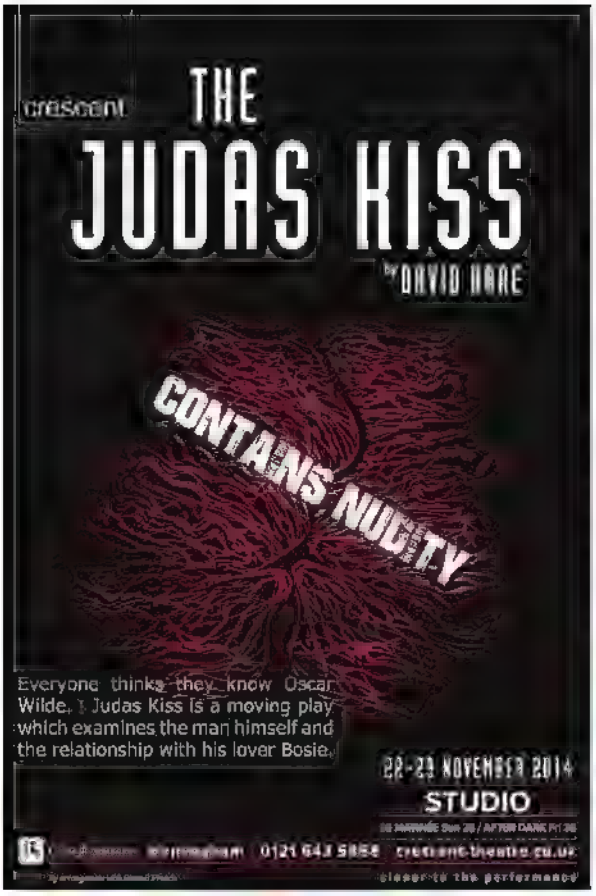
1989 is the fifth album from American singer-songwriter Taylor Swift, taking six months to write. 1989 is a departure from her country pop style found in previous albums and features the popular single Shake It Off

The Violet Flame
Erasure

The brand new Erasure album The Violet Flame was recorded in New York and London and produced by Richard X. The album follows 2013's critically acclaimed Snow Globe, and is the band's sixteenth studio album release.

This Is All Yours
alt-J

Winners of the 2012 Mercury Music Prize and three times Brit Award nominees alt J are back with their second studio album This Is All Yours. The first single to come from the album, Hunger of the Pine, is tipped to take the charts by storm.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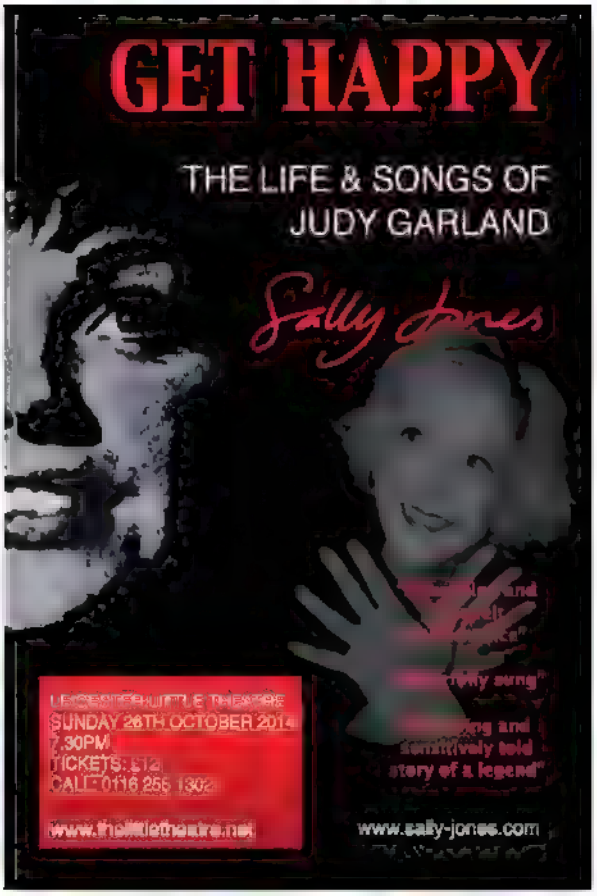
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Two Girls Against The Rain
Who's Afraid Of Vagina Wolf
Saturday 18th October, 1.00pm
Bette Bourne & It Goes With The Shoes
plus Q&A with Bette!
Saturday 18th October, 4.30pm
No Secret Anymore
plus Q&A with Jane Traies
Saturday 18th October, 4.30pm
Some Ground To Stand On
Saturday 18th October, 8.00pm
Patrik, Age 1.5
Sunday 19th October, 1.30pm
The Children's Hour (aka The Loudest Whisper)
Sunday 19th October, 4.30pm
I Am A Woman Now
Sunday 19th October, 6.15pm
Free Fall
SATURDAY SHORTS
THE GATEWAY
Chester Street, Shrewsbury. 01743 355159
18th Oct, 10am - 12 noon
Happy Endings
The Fruit Song
PR (Public Relations)
Another Woman's Scent
Sex, Medicated, Rock-n-Roll
June
Moire
Du Tonc - Darkness
Lucky Fares
Homophobia Harms You And Everyone Around You
SUNDAY SHORTS
the HIVE
5 Belmont Street, Shrewsbury. 01743 234970
19th Oct, 11am - 12.30pm
Spankin
Mark Bunyan: Very Nearly Almost Famous
Change Over Time
Another Way Out
Portrait Of A Queen
Into The Streets
The Cost Of Gender
Police and Crime Commissioner West Mercia
UNISON
Safer
ZONE
GAY PERSPECTIVES

The Rainbow Film Festival

Showcasing the best in LGBT movies...

Following on from its successes in previous years, the Shropshire Rainbow Film Festival makes a welcome return this month - bigger and better than ever!

Running from Friday 17 to Sunday 19 October, the main festival takes place at Shrewsbury's Old Market Hall cinema and showcases seven LGBT movies. The event also features a whole host of shorts, showing at The Gateway on Saturday 18 and The Hive on Sunday 19 October.

To book tickets...
Visit: rainbowfilmfestival.org.uk
or: oldmarkethall.co.uk

Free Fall

A story of forbidden love between two police cadets. During intense physical training, Mark is drawn to the handsome, charismatic Kay, experiencing desires he never knew he had.

Sun 18 October, 6.30pm

Who's Afraid of Vagina Wolf

Filmmaker Anna faces a crisis, as she has neither job nor girlfriend. Just as she's about to throw in the towel, she meets Katia, who becomes her muse and inspiration.

Cert 15 Fri 17 October, 6pm

Patrik, Age 1.5

A funny, unpredictable, gay family comedy. After a seemingly endless wait, Goran and Sven have their adoption papers approved and Patrik, age 15, is on his way!

Cert 15 Sat 18 October, 8pm

Bette Bourne...

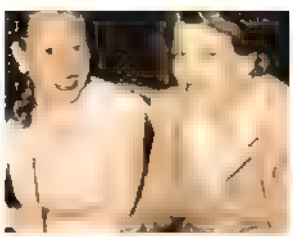
It Goes With The Shoes. The story of gay rights icon Bette Bourne, who took on the establishment with high heels and lippy, playing a vital role in the fight for gay liberation in the '70s and '80s.

Sat 18 October, 1pm

The Children's Hour

Fresh out of college, best friends Karen and Martha establish a new private girls' school. All goes well until the pupils overhear an argument referring to an 'unnatural relationship'.

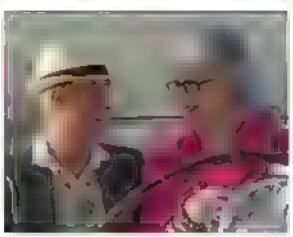
Cert 12a Sun 19 October, 1.30pm



No Secret Anymore

The story of Del Martin and Phyllis Lyon, the founders of Daughters Of Bilitis, the first ever US lesbian rights organisation. A delightful introduction to two legendary women.

Sat 18 October, 4.30pm



I Am A Woman Now

Interviews with April Ashley and others, the first to have sex change operations back in the late 1950s. Did the choice they made change their lives as hoped, and how did the world react to them?

Sun 19 October, 6.30pm

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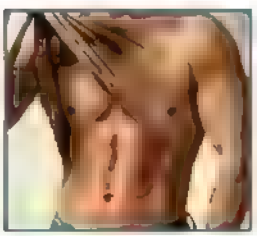
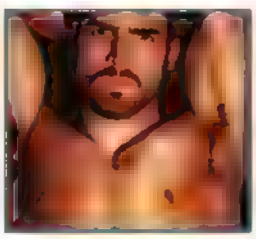

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Legal Scene: Renting Property

Know your rights when dealing with a landlord

Statistics published by the Valuation Office Agency recorded that there were 4,966 private rentals in the Birmingham area (36,732 across the West Midlands) in the 12 months preceding 30 September 2013. Whether a one-room or a four-plus bedroom property, tenants need to be aware of their landlord's obligations. Here, Lee Trubshaw, from solicitors Bradin Trubshaw & Kirwan LLP, highlights some of the primary points...

I'm about to rent a flat and have heard about tenancy agreements but don't know what's involved.

Anyone who pays rent to a landlord will have a tenancy agreement, which can be written or verbal. I would always advise prospective tenants to secure an agreement in writing, as a verbal agreement could be difficult to enforce in the event of a dispute. That said, if you're paying rent, you have rights - even if your agreement is a verbal one. A tenancy agreement is a contract between you and your landlord and should detail the terms and conditions of your tenancy - for example, how much rent is due, when it's due and whether it includes charges such as council tax, water rates and other bills. It should also cover basic information such as both your landlord's and your name and address, along with that of any letting agent, the address of the rental property, duration of the agreement (fixed-term or periodic, where it runs on a week-by-week or month-by-month basis), deposit payment and the deposit protection scheme your landlord uses, who to contact when repairs are needed, and rules on ending the tenancy, pets, smoking and guests/lodgers.

What is an assured shorthold tenancy?

There are different types of tenancy but most are assured shorthold tenancies, which means that the tenant rents from a private landlord who doesn't live in the property. An assured shorthold tenancy must also have started after 15 January 1989 and be a person's main living accommodation. With this type of tenancy, you can only be evicted with proper notice and following the correct process. However, if you lodge with your landlord and share rooms, such as the kitchen or bathroom, then this will be an excluded tenancy or licence agreement, both of which afford less protection from eviction. There are also assured tenancies (started between 15 January 1989 and 27 February 1997) and regulated tenancies (started before 15 January 1989) which give different rights again. It's therefore important to understand which type of tenancy you have.

I am sharing a house with friends, but one wants to move out. Will this affect those who stay?

If you've signed a joint tenancy agreement with your friends, you're all responsible for the whole rent, which means that if one person doesn't pay their share, the others have to pay it for them. Also, if your friend gives the landlord notice to end the agreement, this means that it will usually end for everyone. This doesn't apply in the case of fixed-term agreements, as you can try to secure a new tenancy agreement before the existing one ends.

My landlord has just found out that I gay and is trying to change my tenancy agreement. Can he do this?

Your tenancy agreement cannot be changed if it discriminates against you - this includes being gay or transsexual, as well as discrimination against religion, disability, being pregnant or having had a baby. Any changes to a tenancy agreement must be agreed by both parties.

What is a tenancy deposit protection scheme?

A tenancy deposit scheme is designed to ensure that any deposit paid to a landlord on an assured shorthold tenancy starting after 6 April 2007 is kept safe, so that tenants get their money back at the end of the tenancy. It's a government-backed scheme which can be registered in England and Wales with the Deposit Protection Service, mydeposits or the Tenancy Deposit Scheme. There are also two types of scheme - custodial and insured. With the former, the landlord/agent pays the tenant's deposit into the scheme; with the latter, the landlord/agent pays an insurance premium into the scheme and keeps the deposit. Provided a tenant has paid all rent and bills, has met the terms of the tenancy agreement and has not damaged the property, the landlord must return the deposit within 10 days of the end of the tenancy.

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Birmingham LGBT seeking coming out stories from city's gay community

Midlands charity Birmingham LGBT is seeking input from the city's gay community for a new Heritage Lottery-funded project about coming out.

The Coming Out Stories research project is set to explore what happens when people 'come out of the closet', as well as the differences between coming out today and what it was like to come out in the recent past.

Birmingham LGBT is looking for stories from young and old to add to the rich fabric of Birmingham's LGBT heritage. The project will collect audio oral histories and look for community members who are willing to be filmed.

The Coming Out Stories project is seeking a diversity of voices and stories, with the only requirement being that the participants have lived or worked in the Birmingham area, even if they're not currently a city resident.

For more information, contact sarahbuckstock@blgbt.org, call 0121 643 0821 or visit www.blgbt.org

Another success for the Trade Health & Wellbeing Marquee at Leicester Pride

The Leicester Pride 2014 Health & Wellbeing Marquee has been hailed a huge success by its joint organisers, Trade Sexual Health and Leicester Sexual Health Services.

For the fifth year running, the marquee included a full sexual health testing clinic and numerous interactive information stands and activities.

Pride 2014 also saw the marquee launch a host of new services, including Trade's Humsafar LGBT South Asian Support service, the new Dosti social and support group for South Asian guys who like guys, and the new Trade Approach counselling service.

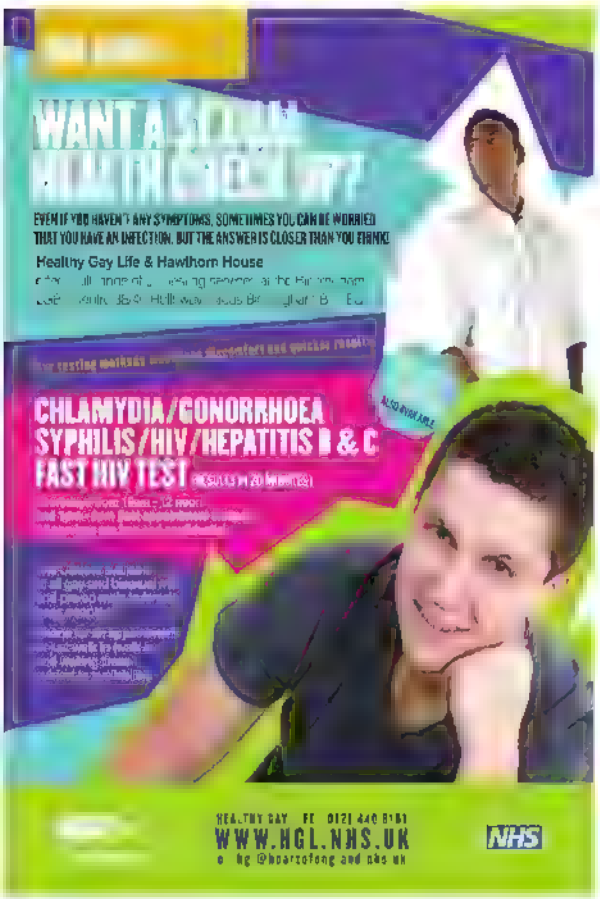
People visiting the marquee had access to advice and information from a team of experts. Living With Abuse's domestic violence team were in residence throughout the day, as were professionals from the NHS Stop Smoking Service and the Leicester Recovery Partnership drug and alcohol service.

The marquee also offered plenty of other

attractions, including the Cyclone Smoothie bike - providing Pride-goers with the opportunity to create their very own fruit drink. The Trade Pride Photo Booth and Trade Chill-Out Zone also proved popular with visitors.

Commenting on the marquee's success, a Trade spokesman said: "Our heartfelt thanks to everyone who came along. None of this would've been possible without our volunteers, our staff, and the help of our committed Board of Trustees."

The marquee's on-site clinic tested over 100 people during the course of the day.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TimeOut Counselling: a worry-free, counselling experience in Coventry

TimeOut Counselling service was started in 2013 by Lynne Potter. Her aim was to ensure that LGBT+ people could access counselling without having to worry about potential prejudice and discrimination because of their sexual or gender identity.

Lynne wanted to make low-cost counselling available within the local area, so started the service in conjunction with Coventry & Warwickshire Friend. The counselling service proved very popular so Lynne took on another counsellor, Janey Lansdell, and now they run the service together. Lynne and Janey have spent several years amongst LGBT+ people, so have a good understanding of some of the issues that can arise. They also realise that it's a person's individual story which matters most.

Given that LGBT+ people often suffer discrimination and stigma, resulting in depression and other problems, Lynne and Janey feel that it's important to provide an explicitly LGBT-friendly space, where people don't have to explain what it means to be gay, bisexual, trans or non-binary. They recognise that even if people do feel these labels describe them, each individual will have a different understanding of each label.

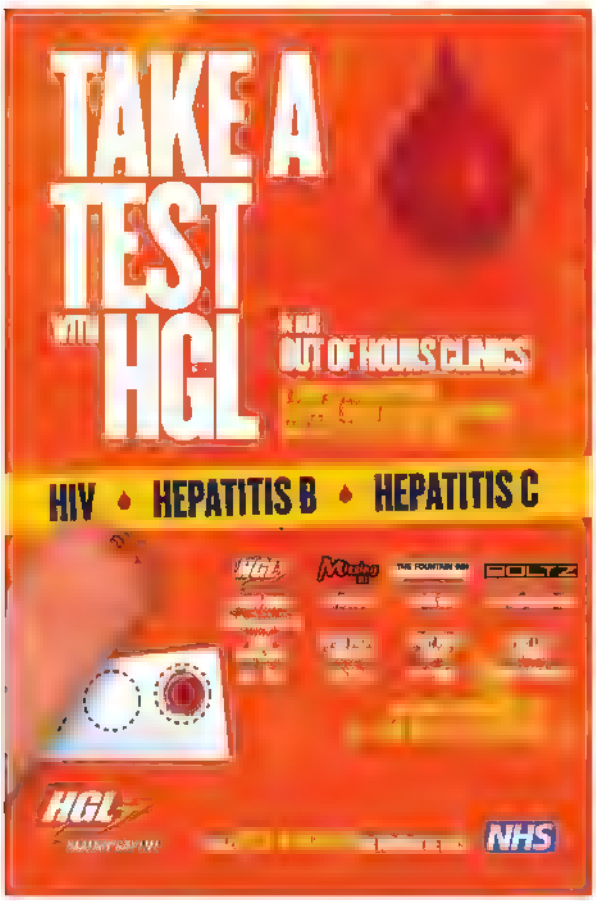
"For us," says Lynne, "the person's story is far more important than the words. At the same time, we recognise that people can suffer discrimination as a result of other people's perceptions of these labels.

"LGBT+ clients who come to us generally don't want to talk about sexuality issues such as coming out – although they're very welcome to do so. Most clients want to talk about other things, life problems such as depression, anxiety, anger issues or difficulties at work. They want a space where their sexuality or relationship isn't an issue and is just accepted as normal."

"We also have clients who come to us in various types of alternative relationship," adds Janey. "We have people in various poly and open relationships, and we welcome clients in either monogamous or multiple relationships. We also have clients who come to us who're in various types of kink and alternative relationship. We feel it's important to recognise that these are, for many people, just part of their everyday lives."

"Our counselling service is person-centred in outlook," explains Lynne, "which means that we won't pass judgement or try and tell you the best way to run your life. We believe that providing space for people to talk things through is often exactly what's needed, and that 'inflicting' our beliefs and directions on people creates an artificial way forward, rather than one that comes from within them. Any changes they make have more chance of 'sticking' if they're changes which they themselves have decided to make."

For more information, ring 02476 980616/07936525666 or send an email to: timeout.counselling.cwf@gmail.com



ACE A Circle of Equality! Meets every Tuesday 5 till 7pm. Tel: 01902 4[illegible]

ACTING OUT An acting group for the LGBT Community open to anyone [illegible] or visit: www.actingout.org.uk

ARTPRIDE Art group [illegible]

BARDS & BOOKS Reading group. Every 1st Monday monthly LGBT Centre 8.30pm. e:hazelhouse@hotmail.com

BGSO Birmingham Gay Symphony Orchestra [illegible] or visit: www.[illegible].org.uk

DUDLEY LIBRARY LGBT READING GROUP 1st Monday of Every Month Tel: 01384 8[illegible]

GAPP Gay and Performing Project, Birmingham. Call: Mike [illegible]791

LEICESTER POETRY OPEN MIKE NIGHT Meets last Tues monthly at The Red Lion. Tel: Brenda on [illegible]77 6[illegible]81

LEICESTERSHIRE RAINBOW VOICES LGBT choir. Meets every Tues in Leicester. Call Chris on [illegible] 8[illegible]6

LGBT READING GROUP Every 3rd Wednesday monthly 7pm. Tel: Jayne 01902 5[illegible]

JOURNEY FILM GROUP LGBT Film group meets every 1st & 3rd Tuesday monthly. www.[illegible].co.uk

RAINBOW SPIRIT Creative [illegible] Call Jon [illegible]

RAINBOW VOICES LGBT [illegible] 64[illegible] Rehearsals [illegible]

SMETHWICK LIBRARY LGBT Reading group 1st Monday monthly 5.45pm Tel: 0121 508 [illegible]

UNTOLD STORIES LGBT [illegible] & Rutland e:[illegible]

WALSALL LGBT BOOK CLUB 1st Tuesday 11am Walsall Central Library. Contact Ann on [illegible]

LGBT Social

ALLsorts Group for young [illegible] Centre, Leicester. Tel: Paul [illegible]

ANOTHER WAY LGBT Social Group meets in Walsall every [illegible] 2.45pm Federation House, [illegible] St Walsall Tel [illegible]

BROTHERHOOD Group for anyone transitioning from [illegible] LGBT+ Centre, Leicester. Call: Dennis 0116 254 7412

BRUM BI GROUP Meets on the 2nd Tuesday of every month at 7.30pm at the Rose Group in. Tel: 07932 [illegible]

BRUM DINING OUT Meets at a different restaurant each month e: brumdiningout@hotmail.com

COVENTRY LADS Social [illegible] Sports Centre 024 [illegible]

DE MONTFORT LGBT SOCIETY Based at De Montfort [illegible]

DERBYSHIRE CC Employee [illegible] for [illegible]

DERBYSHIRE REACHOUT Men's Social Group. Tel: 01332 207704

DOSTI South Asian men's [illegible] Call: 0116 [illegible] 47

DUDLEY GAY & BISEXUAL MEN'S SOCIAL NON SCENE GROUP [illegible] Meet Matt Baldwin on [illegible]

THE EDWARD CARPENTER COMMUNITY OF GAY MEN [illegible] Home Farm contact: 0121 [illegible]

EVERGREEN LGBT Social [illegible] Tel: [illegible]49

FAN LGBT Social Events [illegible] www.[illegible].co.uk

GAY CLASSIC CAR GROUP [illegible] on [illegible]365 4166

GAYMEZ LGBT Games [illegible] Twice monthly. Thurs & 10pm. Tel: 01902 425092

GLOUCESTERSHIRE Gay & [illegible] [illegible] Tel: [illegible]

HEREFORD LGBT Gay Men's Group in The Heath, [illegible] Hereford. No appointment necessary

HIGH S GROUP Social group for men affected by HIV. [illegible] Tel: [illegible]

HME Group for BME LGBT [illegible] [illegible]

LADS CAFE Shropshire Telford & Wrekin. Call: [illegible]

LADS CAFE Weekly gathering for gay & Bisexual men in Wolverhampton. Every Monday 6.30pm. Tel: [illegible]

LAVENDAR MOVEMENT [illegible] Tel: [illegible]

LEICESTER GAY GROUP Call Pete on 0116 291 6135

LEICESTER LGBT CENTRE CAFE Leicester. Call: 0116 [illegible]

LGBT PARENTS Network for LGBT parents. www.lgbtparents.net

LGBT SHREWSBURY What's happening in Shrewsbury [illegible]

LGBT STAFFORDSHIRE Stoke on Trent. Meets every Wed at The [illegible]

NOTTINGHAM BREAKOUT Meets every Tuesday from [illegible]

NUBIAN RAINBOW [illegible] people in the community. [illegible] Tel: 0121 446 1066

OUT EVERYWHERE Bringing [illegible] 1990. Call: [illegible]

PINK SOU WESTERS South West Staffs LGBT group offers [illegible] events and activities. Call 07976 274271

QUIZ NIGHT 1st Wednesday [illegible] Tel: [illegible]

SANDWELL Gay & Bisexual [illegible] 4th [illegible] Matt Baldwin on [illegible]

SHREWSBURY CHILL OUT MONDAYS 1st Mon [illegible] at [illegible] 3rd Monday [illegible] at The Arc 8.15pm. Shrewsbury

SOUTH ASIANS LGBT [illegible] Social [illegible] Birmingham. Meet [illegible] Call: [illegible]

THIRD WAY Social Group for [illegible] Every 3rd Tuesday monthly in Wolverhampton. 7-9pm Tel: [illegible]

TRUE COLOURS Derby based BME LGBT Social [illegible] Call: [illegible]

WAGS Walsall Activities [illegible] Over 18s Only e: [illegible]

WARWICK PRIDE Social [illegible] Tel: [illegible]

WORCESTER LGBT NETWORK [illegible] www.brewery-tap.org.uk

WS MIDLANDS LGBT Social [illegible] Every 1st Tues [illegible] Tel: [illegible]

LGBT Business

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL EMPLOYEE NETWORK Formed in 2012. E-mail: [illegible]

BIRMINGHAM LGBT COMMUNITY TRUST [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

the over 40's meets every 2nd Saturday of the month at 1pm at 10 Norton Tower. Contact on-sue@hotmail.co.uk

RUBY'S Mature Women's Group, Wolverhampton. Tel: 01902 425092

RUBYFRUIT WOMEN Leicester based non-scene social group for lesbian, bisexual and questioning women of all ages. Wednesday nights from 7pm. Tel: 07512 156474

THE PINK LINK is a social space in Staffordshire for women with a different vision. Call: 01782 266998

WORCESTER LESBIAN GROUP Meets twice monthly e. me_myself_i79@outlook.com

[redacted]

1ST OUT YOUTH GROUP Leicester LGBT Centre, 15 Wellington Street, Leicester. Call: Paul Foxon on 0116 254 7412

DERBYSHIRE LGBT Youth Forum. Tel: 01332 207704

GALAXY Group for lesbian, gay and bisexual young people aged 18 and under in Stoke on Trent and North Staffordshire. Call: 0300 123 0970

I-MIX Group for young LGBTQ people in Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin. Call: 01952 221410

INSIDE OUT (Sandwell) A youth club for LGBT and questioning young people and their friends. Tel: 0845 352 1276

OUTBURST Nottingham. Support group for LGBT young people. Tel: 0115 952 5040

OUT CENTRAL LGBT youth group for young people 13-19 who are LGBT or questioning their sexuality. Call 07826 873458

OUT EAST Youth group based in Sutton Coldfield. Tel: 07795 611751

PRISM LGBTQ Support group for young people in Coventry. Info@prismlgbtq.org

SHOUT (Sandwell) An LGBT youth steering group which works towards giving LGBT young people a voice in Sandwell. Tel: 0845 352 1276

SPACE LGBT YOUTH GROUP A group for young people aged 13 to 21. Tel: 01543 411413

SPECTRUM - YOUNG LGBT SOCIAL GROUP Leicestershire Group offering opportunities for young LGBT people. Call: 0116 254 7412

UNIQUE Group for young LGBTQ people. Meet twice monthly on Sundays. Call Matt or Justin 01384 243220

X2Y Group for young LGBT people in Wolverhampton. Every Saturday. e: info@x2y.org.uk

HIV/AIDS Helplines

ABPLUS A Charity supporting people living with and affected by HIV. Call 0121 622 6471

FRESHWINDS HOUSE Holistic care and support for people with life threatening illness. Tel: 0121 415 5670 (6 lines)

HEALTHY GAY LIFE - BIRMINGHAM Free confidential service working with Gay, Bisexual men to promote sexual, mental and social health and well-being. Tel: 0121 440 6161

LEICESTERSHIRE AIDS SUPPORT SERVICES Tel: 0116 255 9995

[redacted] Confidential help and support for people living with or affected by HIV. Tel: 01782 201251

SUMMIT HOUSE SUPPORT Practical Support and confidential advice around all HIV/AIDS related issues in the Dudley / Sandwell borough. Tel: 01384 243220

TERRENCE HIGGINS TRUST Offer a range of services for those infected and affected by HIV and STIs. Birmingham: 0121 694 6440
Solihull: 0121 694 6440
Coventry: 02476 229292
Nottingham: 0115 882 0121
Telford: 01952 221410
Wolves: 01902 711818

TRADE SEXUAL HEALTH Offers a range of confidential services advice and support for LGBT communities affected by HIV & STIs. Leicester Tel: 0116 254 1747

LGBT Helplines

COVENTRY & WARWICK SHIRE FRIEND Tel: 02476 714199

DERBYSHIRE LGBT SWITCHBOARD Tel: 01332 349333

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE INTEGRATED RESPONSE PROJECT Leicester Tel: 0116 255 0004

GAYLIFE NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE Tel: 0300 123 0970

HATE CRIME NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE Talk to a Hate Crime officer in complete confidence Stoke area. Tel: 01782 266998 (Loleita Higgins) North Staffs Tel: 01785 233458 (John Wilson)

LBG COUNSELLING SERVICE Free counselling service for all sorts of LGB related issues. Call: 01782 425969

LEICESTER LGBT HELP-LINE Tel: 0116 255 0667

LGBT AA MEETING West Midlands. 8pm every Sat Summit House, Dudley. Tel: 01384 243220

LGBT STAFFORDSHIRE Stoke on Trent & North Staffs. Tel: 01782 266998

NOTTINGHAM LESBIAN & GAY SWITCHBOARD 0115 934 8485 or 01623 621515

RAINBOW SUPPORT HEREFORDSHIRE free and confidential support Call 07507 447834

TRADE SEXUAL HEALTH Offers counselling services and one to one support for LGB communities. Leicester Tel: 0116 254 1747

VICTIM SUPPORT Provides emotional support and practical help to anyone who has been a victim of crime. Tel: 0300 303 1977

Support Groups

ABplus Poz Gay Men's Group. Meets 1st Thursday monthly for information and support. Call: Peter on 07960 404926

ALCOHOL & DRUGS SMART Recovery SMART meetings in a friendly environment. e. smartblgbt@yahoo.com

BIRMINGHAM PARENTS SUPPORT GROUP Meets 1st Wednesday Bi-monthly in Solihull. Tel: Maureen on 0121 742 0230

BEAM (Black ethnic & Asian Minority) Social and Support Group in Leicester. Call 0116 254 7412

COVENTRY & [redacted] gay, lesbian, bisexual or trans? Need to talk? Call 02476 714199 Mon - Fri 7.30pm - 9pm

CHANGES Based in Wolverhampton. Call: Ilsa on 07864240222 or Maria on 07542 450163

DOSTI South Asian men's support group. Leicester. Call: 0116 254 1747

GROUP ONE Derby based support group for LGBT families. call: 07779 560284

HGL COUNSELLING & PSYCHOTHERAPY Mental and sexual health, for lesbians, bisexuals, gay men and trans people with a choice of male or female counsellors. Tel: 0121 446 1085 or 07976 919481

HGL MARRIED MEN'S GROUP Support and advice for married men. Call: 0121 440 6161

HIGH 5 GROUP An HIV awareness group for gay/bisexual men who are affected by HIV. Group provides Support, events, outings. Leicester Tel: 0116 254 1747

HIV MEN'S GROUP Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin. Call: 01952 221410

HIV WOMEN'S GROUP Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin. Call: 01952 221410

INFORMAL ONE TO ONE SUPPORT A service for young men, south Asian men and African Caribbean men. Tel: 0121 440 6161. Email: info@hgl.nhs.uk

KETTERING OUT AND [redacted] Organises support in the Kettering area. Call: 07877 625235

LEICESTER LGB&T CENTRE Host numerous support groups. Call: 0116 254 7412

LGBT ALCOHOL SUPPORT GROUP Offer support to anybody in the gay community who has alcohol related problems. Tel: Tony on 0121 440 6161 or 07760 195642

LGBT NETWORK Stoke on Trent & North Staffordshire. Tel: 01782 266998

LGBT NETWORK Wolverhampton. Holistic support for LGB&T people in the Black Country. Tel: 01902 425092

LGBT COUNSELLING Wolverhampton. Tel: 01902 425092

LGBT PROFESSIONALS in Wolverhampton. Meets once a month. Tel: 01902 425092

MIND OUT Mental Health Support Group in Wolverhampton. 1st and 3rd Wednesday monthly. Tel: 01902 425092

NATURAL HEALING For emotional and physical health. Contact Alison Lesbian Homeopath. Tel: 01902 688087

NEW ROAD PARENTS Bromsgrove and surrounding areas. Supporting parents of LGBT people. Meets bi-monthly on the 1st Wed. Tel: Margaret 01527 832492

PINK PARENTS A social, networking group for all lesbian and gay parents and their children. E: pink parents@virginmedia.com

RANK OUTSIDERS Support group for LGB armed forces personnel - past & present. Helpline: 0870 740 7755

RAPE & SEXUAL VIOLENCE PROJECT: BIRMINGHAM Free confidential counselling for LGBT survivors of sexual, domestic violence and hate crimes. Tel: 0121 200 1695

SANDWELL Gay & Bisexual Men's Drop-In Service. Every Friday. Tel: 01384 243220

STONEWALL Free information service. Tel: 08000 50 20 20

SWAIN Wyre Forest Meets the first Wednesday monthly. For more details phone Tel: 07842 070 240

WORCESTER LGBT NETWORK Tel: 01905 429800

Trans Support

LEICESTER BUTTERFLIES for info visit facebook.com/groups/butterfliesleicester

OUTSKIRTS TRANS-GENDER SOCIAL SUPPORT GROUP The West Midlands largest transgender social support group. Email sally@outskirtslg.co.uk or visit www.outskirtslg.co.uk

SANCTUARY Providing support and practical help. Tel: 01902 744424

SANCTUARY STOKE Support people who are Transsexual, Transvestite or Transgender in North Staffs. www.gaystoke.org.uk

TRANS SOUTH STAFFS Support and group for people who are Trans, Transvestite or Transgender. Tel: 01543 411413

TRANS SOCIAL SUPPORT GROUP Meets every 1st and 3rd Monday monthly. Tel: 01902 425092

SUMMIT HOUSE SUPPORT

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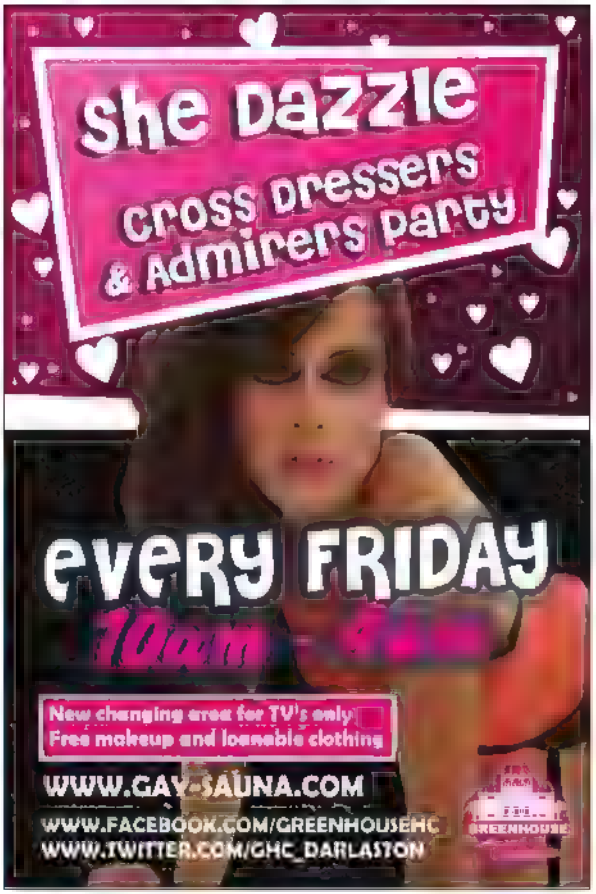

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clinic at **Chameleons**
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2nd Monday of the month 3-6pm

clinic at the **R3troClub**
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NHS Walsall

Walsall HIV Team 07963 124 445
morriscolin@walsall.gov.uk ~ melsmore@walsall.gov.uk
Walsall Centre for Sexual Health (GUM) 01922 63 33 41

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spartanhealthclub.co.uk

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61 Bedford St, South Leicester LE1 3JR
splashleisure.co.uk

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Tel: 0121 622 7070
Lower Essex Street, Birmingham, B5 6SN
unit2sauna.info

CELTS
Tel: 0116 285 6000
38 Narborough Road Leicester LE3 0BQ
celts-sauna.co.uk

CITY STEAM
Tel: 01332 209150
9-9 St Marys Gate Derby DE1 3JF
citysteam.co.uk

CITY STEAM 2
Tel: 0115 959 8603
[illegible] Nottingham,NG1 1ER
citysteam.co.uk

HEROES HEALTH CLUB
Tel: 01384 442030
4-5 Lower High Street Stourbridge West Midlands DY8 1TE
heroeshealthclub.com

[illegible]
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71 Ratcliffe Gate [illegible] NG18 2AB
manzfields.co.uk

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THE GUDRUN LIMBRICK COLUMN

The fall of a hero

I cheered like a mad woman when Oscar Pistorius competed in the Olympics in London. I had to watch it again as, coincidentally, I got a little something in my eye as he crossed the finish line.

It was a great triumph of determination over adversity, and told us a little something about how it's possible to achieve amazing things even when life is throwing shit at you.

But after the killing of his girlfriend by his own hand, how my views have changed.

When Judge Thokozile Masipa was put in charge of the ensuing monumental task, I was delighted. Again, another story of triumph over the shit-throwing. Having grown up in Soweto, she became only the second black woman to be appointed as a judge in the High Court.

But after she threw out murder as a verdict, I'm not cheering now.

As I write, we have yet to learn what sentence Masipa will give Pistorius, after the latter was found guilty of culpable homicide, but already the barriers are being removed for his returning to the sport he loved - and his agent has reportedly revealed plans for a tell-all book (in time for the Christmas buying bonanza?).

South Africa is a violent country, there's no doubt about that. And Pistorius chose to be a violent man when he shot into a locked toilet rather than take a second to ask who might be in there. For me, that split-second decision to fire rather than flee makes it murder, whether he thought Reeva Steenkamp or an intruder was in there. That Masipa chose not to take the opportunity to send a loud message to the country that violence against women, and against potential intruders, is not acceptable, is a massive disappointment. That she did so while acknowledging that Pistorius had been less than truthful in court is surely a travesty. Why did she believe his story that he was frightened of being attacked by an intruder when she didn't believe other elements of his testimony?

I can't help thinking that this was a golden opportunity to see justice being done in the most high-profile way possible. What we have instead is an enormous missed opportunity.

We will learn soon what his sentence is to be, but it seems that maybe he's dodged a bullet, in a way that, tragically, Reeva Steenkamp was not allowed to do.

ON THE BALL with Steve Ball

The end of gay?

Veteran gay rights campaigner Peter Tatchell has recently argued that gayness is a phase we're all going through.

He suggests that, as many western nations progress towards a 'post-homophobic society', the differences between hetero and homo will no longer matter, and that more people are likely to have gay sex but fewer people will identify as gay (or straight). The 'absence' of homophobia will, he argues, "make the need to assert and affirm gayness (and heterosexuality) irrelevant and redundant".

Peter suggests that gay identity is largely the product of anti-gay repression; a self-defence mechanism against homophobia. Faced with persecution for having same-sex relations, the human right to have those relationships has to be defended - hence gay identity and the LGBTI rights movement. He suggests that homosexuality as a separate, exclusive orientation and identity will begin to fade (as will its mirror-opposite, heterosexuality), as humanity evolves into a "sexually enlightened and accepting society" where we won't feel the need to label ourselves (or others) as gay or straight.

But I'm not sure I totally agree with Peter. Yes, I'm sure that, as society becomes more progressive, we'll care less about each other's sexual orientation. But that's not to say that we won't want to preserve and celebrate our own identity. We saw in the Scottish referendum the desire for Scots to assert their national identity as an independent nation with its own identity. And in the amazing new film, Pride, we see two communities, each with their own sense of identity - working-class miners and lesbians and gays - united against a common enemy.

Personally, I want to hang on to my gay identity. I don't want to be normalised. I'm happy being queer, thank you very much!

Quotes of the month...

Here we take some of our favourite (and often controversial) comments from www.midlandszone.co.uk, Facebook page and Twitter feed...

Stoke: Man avoids being charged over homophobic leaflets

The CPS want a kick up the bottom. This is inciting hate; plain and simple. He should be locked up for a few years to dwell on his out dated views. If I incited hate, against a Muslim or the handicapped, there would be an total outcry. But because it's against the Gay's, then it's a case of don't worry about it. It shouldn't be!! One law to cover everybody!
Andrew Horton, Stoke-On-Trent

If someone was to have posted racist pamphlets around the area, would the Crown Prosecution service have reacted the same way? Is both Race and Sexuality not protected? so why treat them differently- if there is no consistency within the law then it tells people that to be homophobic is acceptable, this is disgusting.
Paul Gibson, Telford

This must be why so many criminals get away with so many crimes! It seems that the CPS are too lazy to even bother trying to punish criminals. I definitely lost all faith in the law now!
Tim Morton (via Facebook)

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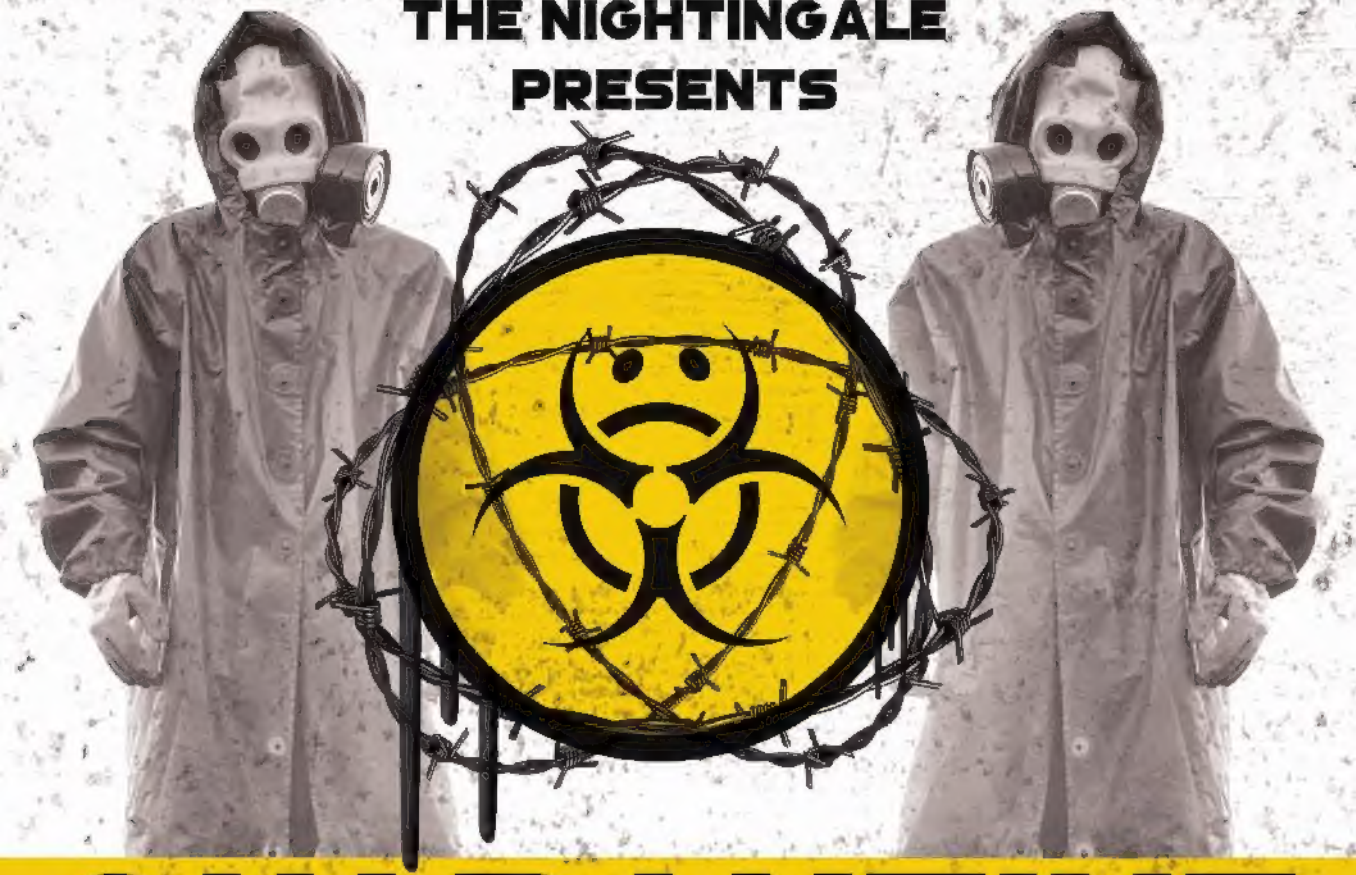
BIRMINGHAM 3RD FRIDAY OF THE MONTH
10PM - 2:30AM THE CORE, 135 SHERLOCK ST, B5 6NB

GLASGOW 1ST FRIDAY OF THE MONTH
10:30PM - 3AM THE ARCHES, 30 MIDLAND ST, G2 8DL

LONDON WEDNESDAYS & SATURDAYS
SATURDAYS 10PM - 6AM WEDNESDAYS 9PM - 3AM
PULSE, NO.1 INVICTA PLAZA, SOUTH BANK, SE1 9UF

THE NIGHTINGALE
PRESENTS



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